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Getting a handle on the chaos

Data shows a third of small businesses across the region closed at some point since March

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Given the chaos of the pandemic, it has been difficult for the state to pin down how many local businesses are either temporarily or permanently closed.

But analysts have a rough idea of what the Southwest Michigan economy has had to deal with since this summer.

According to Opportunity Insights – a group that measures the health of small businesses – and information gathered by Kinexus Group, roughly one-third of small businesses in Berrien, Cass, Van Buren counties were closed, either permanently or temporarily by the end of July.

Kinexus Group measures labor market data and trends on a monthly basis as part of its efforts in workforce, economic and community development.

"This figure equates to over 750 establishments in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties, with over 500 of them in Berrien County alone," said Todd Gustafson, president and CEO of Kinexus. "This is a significant increase and a very alarming number to look at because small businesses are the heart of Southwest Michigan, and unfortunately, it doesn't stop there."

Around half of all regional small businesses were closed in mid-April due to the state-mandated quarantine. Because the number of closed small businesses remained high by July, Gustafson said the pandemic has proven to have a large and persistent impact on the local economy.

While there has been no new data for Berrien, Cass, Van Buren since July, statewide data shows that the number of small business closures had increased to 38 percent by the day before Thanksgiving.

"There is reason to believe our local economy is faring somewhat better than the rest of Michigan. Large cities and college towns have borne the brunt of lasting small business damage during the pandemic," Gustafson said. "With our region benefitting from its hot real estate market, tourists from Chicago looking to get

See **CHAOS**, page A10

Don Campbell / HP staff

The ongoing pandemic has caused several small businesses in Southwest Michigan to close permanently. Among the latest closures is the New Super Buffet Restaurant in Benton Township.

DOING THE SANTA STROLL

Don Campbell / HP staff

Phil and Martha Ely of Sister Lakes dress as Santa and Mrs. Claus as they enjoy Thursday's mild weather while walking along Broad Street in downtown St. Joseph. "Christmas is still coming," says Phil Ely, referencing the current pandemic that maybe has some folks feeling the holiday blues.

Berrien makes plan to extend virtual meetings

If state doesn't act, county action can extend the needed authority

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County commissioners have a plan in place so local elected bodies can continue meeting virtually in January if state legislators don't take action before the end of the year.

"The message to go out to all units of government is that we will, if necessary, make an emergency declaration so that as we head into the 2021 calendar year, they will be able to meet virtually in the event that the legislature fails to extend the modification to the Open Meetings Act, which will expire at the end of this month," Berrien County Board of Commissioners Chairman Mac Elliott said during the board's meeting on Thursday.

If needed, he said commissioners can declare a state of emergency for the entire county during their last meeting of the year, which was changed from Dec. 31 to Dec. 30. The virtual meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. and can be viewed on the county's YouTube channel.

Commissioners are also ready to meet on that date if they need to finalize how money from the CARES Act is spent, which has a Dec. 31 deadline.

Elliott said the Dec. 30 meeting will be cancelled if it is not needed.

State legislators amended the Open Meetings Act to allow elected bodies to meet virtually for any reason through Dec. 31. Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021, the amendment allows public bodies to meet remotely if a statewide or local state of emergency or state of disaster

See **MEETINGS**, page A10

One-day U.S. deaths top 3,000, more than D-Day or 9/11

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

MISSION, Kan. — Just when the U.S. appears on the verge of rolling out a COVID-19 vaccine, the numbers have become gloomier than ever: Over 3,000 American deaths in a single day, more than on D-Day or 9/11. One million new cases in the span of five days. More than 106,000 people in the hospital.

The crisis across the country is pushing medical centers to the breaking point and leaving staff members and public health officials burned out and plagued by tears and nightmares.

All told, the crisis has left more than 290,000 people dead nationwide, with more than 15.5 million confirmed infections.

The U.S. recorded 3,124 deaths Wednesday, the highest one-day total yet, according to Johns Hopkins University. Up until last week, the peak was 2,603 deaths on April 15, when New York City was the epicenter of the nation's outbreak. The latest number is subject to revision up or down.

Wednesday's toll eclipsed American deaths on the opening day of the Normandy invasion during World War II: 2,500, out of some 4,400 Allied dead. And it topped the toll on Sept. 11, 2001: 2,977.

New cases per day are running at all-time highs of over 209,000 on average. And the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 is setting records nearly every day.

A U.S. government advisory panel on Thursday endorsed widespread use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to help conquer the outbreak. Depending on how fast the FDA signs off on the panel's recommendation, shots could begin within days, inaugurating the biggest vaccination campaign in U.S. history.

In St. Louis, respiratory therapist Joe Kowalczyk said he has seen entire floors of his hospital fill up with COVID-19 patients, some of them two to a room. He said the supply of ventilators is dwindling, and the inventory is so thin that colleagues on one shift had to ventilate one patient by using a BiPAP machine, similar to the devices used to treat sleep apnea.

When he goes home to sleep during the day at the end of his grueling overnight shifts, he sometimes has nightmares.

"I would be sleeping and I would be working in a unit and things would go completely wrong and I would shock myself awake. They would be very visceral and very vivid," he said. "It would just really spook me."

In South Dakota, Dr. Clay Smith has treated hundreds of COVID-19 patients while working at Monument Health Spearfish Hospital and at Sheridan Memorial Hospital in neighboring Wyoming.

He said patients are becoming stranded in the emergency room for hours while they await beds on the main floor or transfers to larger hospitals. And those transfers are becoming more challenging, with some patients sent as far away as Denver, 400 miles from the two hospitals.

"That is a huge burden for families and EMS systems as well when you take an ambulance and send it 400 miles one way, that ambulance is out of the community for essentially a whole day," he said.

Smith added that some patients have gone from thinking "I thought this was a hoax" to "Wow, this is real and I feel terrible." But he also has seen people with COVID-19 who "continue to be disbelievers. It is hard to see that."

"At the end of the day the virus doesn't care whether you believe in it or not," he said.

New Orleans' health director, Dr. Jennifer Avegno, described a recent visit to a hospital where she watched doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists and others risk exposure to the disease in a long, futile attempt to save a dying COVID-19 patient. Some broke down in tears afterward, she said.

"These are seasoned emergency and critical care personnel," she said. "We do not cry very often – and especially not a number of us all at once."

She cited "the sheer exhaustion of giving their all for similar patients over and over and over again for the past nine months, coupled with the knowledge that much of this could be prevented with really simple measures."

Michigan looks to limit incarceration for minor offenses

By ANNA LIZ NICHOLS
Associated Press/
Report for America

LANSING — The Michigan Senate approved bipartisan legislation Thursday that would limit incarceration for minor offenses, another step as the Legislature moves to change criminal justice laws in the closing days of session.

The state's incarcerated population has nearly tripled over the last four decades even as total crime has significantly decreased, according to U.S. Justice Department. The Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration released legislative recommendations in January, including the legislation approved by the Senate Thursday.

One group of bills looks to limit the practice of allowing or requiring the secretary of state to revoke licenses for parking violations, failing to pay fines or other offenses not related to dangerous driving.

The current system of taking away licenses for offenses such as not paying fines criminalizes poverty, Alex Rossman, external affairs director of the Michigan League for Public Policy, said in a news release.

The Senate approved legislation that would eliminate the 60-day mandatory minimum sentence and the 90-day repeat offense sentence

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The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 47 Low 33

6 50645 49085 0

Michigan expects 257,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses initially

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan expects to receive about 257,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines initially if the federal government authorizes them for emergency use this month, enough to immunize roughly 128,000 residents, a top doctor said Thursday.

The priority remains frontline health care workers and people living and working in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive. She will serve on a commission, created by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, to raise awareness on the safety and effectiveness of coronavirus vaccines that get the green light.

A U.S. government advisory panel was convening Thursday to decide whether to endorse mass use of Pfizer's vaccine. A final decision and the first shots could follow within days. Later this month, the Food and Drug Administration is expected to pass judgment on another vaccine, developed by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health.

The federal government estimates Michigan will get approximately 84,000 doses from Pfizer and 173,000 doses from Moderna in their first shipments, Khaldun said. Both vaccines require two shots. State officials hope to distribute vaccines to the general public by late spring once production ramps up.

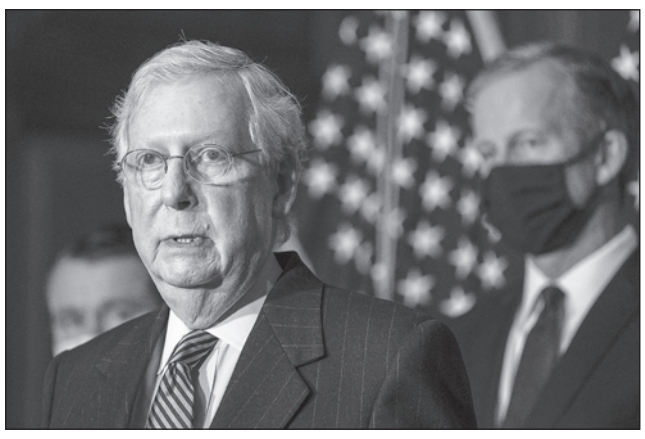
Whitmer, whose health department has prohibited indoor restaurant dining and closed various entertainment venues to limit the spread of the virus, announced that those businesses can postpone by a month their monthly sales, use and tax withholding payments that are due Dec. 20. They will face no penalties or interest.

The vaccine panel will have at least 50 members. Chairs include Khaldun, Detroit Pistons star Blake Griffin, health experts such as Dr. Mona Hanna-Atisha – who helped uncover the Flint water crisis – Democratic Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist and Republican former Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

"It'll be uniquely equipped to help reinforce the importance that we all get vaccinated," Whitmer said.

Lynn Sutfin, spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Human Services, said that within two weeks of vaccines being shipped to Michigan, all hospitals and health departments will receive a shipment. Priority will go to paramedics and health staff who work on general hospital floors and in intensive care units and emergency rooms.

Forty-eight hospitals and 12 local health departments have ultra-cold freezers to store Pfizer's vaccine, she said. The state is finalizing a contract for dry ice so facilities without ultra-cold storage capabilities can store it.



Sarah Silbiger / Pool via AP

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, speaks during a news conference following a weekly meeting with the Senate Republican caucus on Tuesday.

Manuel Balce Ceneta / AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks during a news conference at the Capitol on Thursday.

Congress stuck as McConnell torpedoes emerging COVID-19 deal

By LISA MASCARO and ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An emerging $900 billion COVID-19 aid package from a bipartisan group of lawmakers all but collapsed Thursday after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Republican senators won't support $160 billion in state and local funds as part of a potential trade-off in the deal.

McConnell's staff conveyed to top negotiators that the GOP leader sees no path to an agreement on a key aspect of the lawmakers' existing proposal – a slimmed-down version of the liability shield he is seeking for companies and organizations facing potential COVID-19 lawsuits – in exchange for the state and local funds that Democrats want.

The GOP leader criticized "controversial state bailouts" during a speech in the Senate, as he insists on a more targeted aid package.

The hardened stance from McConnell, who does not appear to have enough votes from his Republican majority for a far-reaching compromise, creates a new stalemate over the $900-billion-plus package, despite days of toiling by a bipartisan group of lawmakers to strike compromise.

Other legislative pile-ups now threaten Friday's must-pass government funding bill. If it doesn't clear Congress, that would trigger a federal government shutdown on Saturday.

McConnell's office confirmed it's "unlikely" the trade-off proposed by the bipartisan group would be acceptable, as COVID aid talks continue. A senior Democrat first shared the Republican leader's views after being granted anonymity to discuss the private conversations.

Deadlines, real and perceived, haven't been sufficient to drive Washington's factions to an agreement, despite the U.S. breaking a record-high 3,000 daily COVID fatalities, and hospitals straining at capacity from soaring caseloads nationwide.

The House recessed for a few days, with leaders warning members to be prepared to return to Washington to vote on the year-end deals, while the Senate was working late into Thursday and planning a rare Friday session.

The breakdown over the COVID aid package, after days of behind-the-scenes talks by a group of lawmakers fed up with inaction, comes as President Donald Trump has taken the talks in another direction – insisting on a fresh round of $600 stimulus checks for Americans.

Sending direct cash payments to households was not included in the bipartisan proposal, but has been embraced by some of the president's fiercest critics – including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N,Y., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont Independent who introduced an amendment to include the checks with Trump ally Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo.

Sanders said the unprecedented moment facing the nation with the pandemic and its economic fallout requires Congress to "take unprecedented action."

Trump's top negotiator on COVID-19 financial aid, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin reported headway Thursday, before the package from the bipartisan senators' group fell apart.

"I think we're making a lot of progress," Mnuchin said.

A one-week stop-gap measure to prevent a federal shutdown appears to have sapped some urgency from the talks. The short-term government-wide funding bill, approved by the House on Wednesday, needs to clear the Senate before Friday at midnight to avert a partial closure.

LOTTERIES

Thursday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
AD-10C-2S-4S-7S
Midday Daily 3
3-4-7
Midday Daily 4
2-2-4-6
Daily 3
2-3-2
Daily 4
7-1-9-0
Fantasy 5
04-09-11-18-39
Keno
03-08-09-13-15-17-21-28-31-36-45-47-48-49-51-54-55-62-67-70-71-79
Mega Millions jackpot
$276 million
Powerball jackpot
$277 million

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Powerball
11-14-31-47-48, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 3
Indiana
Cash 5
06-18-25-33-43
Cash4Life
13-31-37-39-57, Cash Ball: 4
Lotto Plus
08-12-20-31-32-38
Quick Draw Midday
04-06-07-09-17-25-28-29-30-34-35-39-44-53-58-60-65-67-68-75, BE: 58
Daily Three-Midday
0-0-0, SB: 4
Daily Three-Evening
6-0-9, SB: 2
Daily Four-Midday
9-9-5-6, SB: 4
Daily Four-Evening
9-7-7-5, SB: 2
Quick Draw Evening
05-19-22-24-27-34-36-40-42-45-46-47-53-62-64-66-69-75-77-79, BE: 77
Hoosier Lotto
09-10-12-25-27-43
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
11-15-36-38-41
Pick Three-Midday
8-9-8, Fireball: 6
Pick Three-Evening
1-0-6, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Midday
5-0-7-9, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Evening
9-2-9-6, Fireball: 5
Lucky Day Lotto
05-07-08-39-44

– The Associated Press

Fears and tension mount for commuters still heading to work

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — One by one, the fears creep in as Aura Morales rides the bus to her job at CVS in Los Angeles. A passenger boards without a mask but she doesn't dare confront him. More riders board and it's impossible to stay six feet apart. Driving to work isn't an option; Morales can't afford a car, especially after her work hours were cut.

"I get on the bus, I just pray," said the 53-year-old.

As the coronavirus rages across the U.S., grocery workers, health care professionals, university staffers, cleaning crews and others who don't have the option to work from home must weigh safety against affordability when deciding how best to commute to their jobs.

Those who can have ditched public transportation and drive to work instead, contributing to a boon in used car sales in the U.S., which spiked to their highest level on record in June, according to Edmunds.

Meanwhile, public transit agencies have seen ridership plummet, not only because of all the people opting for cars but also so many are now working from home or have lost their jobs altogether. Transit ridership fell 62 percent nationwide in the third quarter compared to last year, according to the American Public Transportation Association. Heavy rail fared even worse, dropping 72 percent in the third quarter.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency warned that without an influx of cash it would have to lay off up to 1,226 full-time workers, or 22 percent of its workforce, and provide just 35 percent of the service it offered before the pandemic. New York's transit agency proposed slashing subway and bus service by 40 percent, cutting commuter rail service in half and laying off nearly 9,400 positions. Washington D.C.'s transit system warned of layoffs and shorter hours as federal financial assistance dries up.

"It really is survival mode for the industry, or we're going to see dramatic reductions in their service deliveries, which would really be counter-productive," said Paul Skoutelas, APTA's President and CEO. "Essential workers rely on public transit by and large, and we can't let them down."

In September, 71 percent of U.S. workers across all sectors were commuting to physical workplaces while 29 percent were doing their jobs remotely, according to a survey of 1,015 employed adults by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Those relying on public transit have already seen schedules cut since the start of the pandemic in March, leading to packed crowds on fewer buses and trains. Mounting tensions over lax social distancing and mask-wearing as coronavirus cases spike have only made their commuting experience worse.

Hipolito Andon, 44, rides the subway to Rockefeller Center in Manhattan where he works as a porter cleaning and maintaining the building. He and his wife, who takes a bus to her school cooking job, are diabetic, increasing their risk of complications if they catch COVID-19. Andon's son takes public transit to a porter job as well. As soon as they get home, everyone showers and changes clothes.

As the pandemic has dragged on, Andon sees more people boarding trains without masks.

"You hear people muttering, 'Why is this guy not wearing a mask?' But there's no confrontation. People just move away," Andon said.

Alexandra Fee chose her apartment in Arlington, Virginia based on its proximity to the buses. But when the 28-year-old was confronted with returning to her job as a university academic adviser, she plunked down cash for a used car after noticing the full buses that passed by her home, sometimes skipping her stop because they had reached capacity.

"If I plan on catching a bus at a certain time and they were too full that morning, would I then have to wait a half-hour for another bus?" Fee wondered.

Traffic patterns show a growing number of commuters making the same calculation.

Paramedics in case of 'dead' woman alive can regain licenses

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT — Michigan authorities have agreed to reinstate the licenses of two suburban Detroit paramedics if they pass a national exam after a young woman declared dead on their watch was discovered to be alive at a funeral home.

The condition is part of a settlement with Michael Storms and Scott Rickard of the Southfield Fire Department, according to state health department documents released to The Associated Press.

Storms must fulfill other requirements, including reading a book about how to deal with families and writing a three-page essay about what he learned.

Storms and Rickard went to the home of Timesha Beauchamp, a 20-year-old woman with cerebral palsy, on Aug. 23 after her family said she was in respiratory distress. The paramedics said they couldn't revive her. A doctor consulted by phone declared her dead.

But Beauchamp gasped and was discovered alive hours later at a Detroit funeral home. She died at a hospital in October. A lawyer said she was in grave condition due to being deprived of oxygen.

The state suspended the paramedic licenses held by Storms and Rickard, who also serve as Southfield firefighters. Authorities were especially critical of Storms, saying he repeatedly failed to recognize that Beauchamp was alive and misled a doctor about the woman's vital signs.

A monitor "clearly showed" electrical activity, regulators said in August.

The state health department recently reached agreements with the men to drop the license suspensions. They will have multiple chances to pass written and practical exams for paramedics. Storms has additional work: He must write a paper on the protocols for determination of death and cardiac arrest.

Storms must read a book, "People Care: Perspective and Practices for Professional Caregivers," and write a three-page paper. He will have three chances to achieve a passing grade on the papers.

An attorney for the paramedics, T. Joseph Seward, declined to comment on the deal, citing a $50 million lawsuit filed by Beauchamp's family. The city of Southfield also declined to comment.

Fire Chief Johnny Menifee had speculated that Beauchamp might have initially survived because of "Lazarus syndrome," a reference to people who come back to life without assistance.

The AP sought to interview Michigan EMS manager Sabrina Kerr about the agreements with the paramedics but a spokesman declined.

"The department is committed to ensuring public safety in our EMS system and will take all necessary disciplinary actions to ensure an incident like this does not happen again," Bob Wheaton of the health department said in an email.

Thom Dick, a retired San Diego paramedic who wrote the "People Care" book, said it's intended to help health professionals talk to the sick and their families.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Whirlpool study examines shifts in home life

Some of these changes are here to stay, experts say

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — With 2020 drawing to a close, many people are speculating about when life will return to normal.

To understand how the pandemic will impact home life in the long-term, Whirlpool Corp. commissioned a study to understand how lives have changed this year.

The study found that more than half of U.S. adults – 53 percent – surveyed are spending on average an extra 7.4 hours at home each day, which is equivalent to over two extra days at home per week.

The pandemic has led to some shifts in dynamics in households, which experts predict could remain for the long-term.

The research was conducted with YouGov, a market research and data analytics firm, which found a shift in household responsibilities among adults in the U.S.

Among those surveyed, 14 percent are cooking together more as a household since the pandemic began, allowing the inference that nearly 36 million people in the U.S. are cooking together more.

For 12 percent, housework has become more of a joint effort than ever before, meaning that over 15 million households in the U.S. are sharing more chores – with laundry (66 percent) and cooking (65 percent) being the most popular shared chores among those sharing the effort.

The survey also revealed that more quality time is being spent together as a household.

Nearly a quarter of participants say they feel closer to friends and family.

The most popular reason for this is people are spending more time together, as a household (57 percent). But also one in five (22 percent) say it's because they have been exercising or learning new skills together.

Finding time

Also according to Whirlpool's report, more people have become hobbyists.

Sixteen percent – which would represent nearly 41 million people in the U.S. – have taken up at least one new hobby or skill since the start of the pandemic.

From the given list, cooking (29 percent), gardening (23 percent), drawing/painting (23 percent) and embarking on a new course of learning (21 percent) are the most popular hobbies picked up by those who have started a new one.

Seventeen percent also say they've become more creative in the kitchen.

Nearly a third stated they've found a new appreciation for their homes this year, and 27 percent say spending more time at home has produced unexpected positives.

Meik Wiking, known as a "happiness expert" and CEO of The Happiness Research Institute, believe such changes will stick, to some extent.

Although 54 percent of people hope life returns to normal heading into 2021, more than a quarter say they want to keep up the positive new changes they've made at home.

"When the world feels chaotic, we often look for shelter and comfort in our homes as somewhere we can control. That's never been more true than over the last few months," Wiking said in a written statement. "As this study shows, the effort we've made to make our homes a sanctuary from the outside world has led to us making changes to our home lives and household dynamics. From transforming what our homes look like, to reviewing how we share the housework, to thinking about how we can continue to grow as individuals – even if it's within our four walls."

Looking ahead to 2021, Wiking said residents might not be able to keep up all the good hobbies they've picked up. However, he said they will continue some of these habits.

To help people keep these habits up, Whirlpool is launching a new "Improving Life At Home" online hub, which brings expert advice from across its many brands.

"At Whirlpool Corp., we are in constant pursuit of improving life in the home," Eleanor Reece, senior director of global campaigns at Whirlpool, said in a news release. "... Amidst the hardships, challenges and uncertainty that have come in 2020, it's been heartening to see some silver linings as new dynamics and habits emerge in homes everywhere. We want to play our part in helping people keep those up, which is why we've launched this online hub, which brings together the best of our company's advice-led content to help people make the most of life at home."

The total sample size of the study was 1,380 adults, with the fieldwork being done from Nov. 10-12.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

HIGH WIRE ACT

Don Campbell / HP staff

I&M is continuing work to upgrade the transmission line infrastructure, pictured here near Carronde Park in Benton Harbor this week as part of a project that involves rebuilding miles of lattice structures throughout Southwest Michigan.

Lawton woman arrested after fleeing from police

By HP STAFF

PAW PAW — A Lawton woman faces multiple criminal charges after police say she fled from police.

The incident began at 6:08 p.m. Wednesday when Michigan State Police responded to a complaint from Wolf Lake Party Store that a suspicious person was looking in car windows in the parking lot at 26778 M-43 Highway. Store employees asked the 30-year-old woman to leave but she refused, police said. They added that when troopers arrived at 6:20 p.m., the woman fled in her vehicle, traveling westbound on M-43 Highway.

Van Buren County deputies watching for the suspect vehicle found it southbound on M-40 Highway at 51st Avenue, entering the village of Paw Paw.

When deputies attempted to stop the vehicle the driver refused to stop, Stop sticks were deployed at Davis Street, flattening both passenger side tires. The driver attempted to continue but had to stop four blocks later.

The woman's 3-year-old daughter was in the back seat in a child safety seat and was taken to family.

The female driver was lodged in the county jail on charges of fleeing and eluding, resisting and obstructing, child endangerment and no insurance.

Stevensville approves repaving, sidewalk project for Karen Court

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

STEVENSVILLE — Stevensville trustees approved repaving Karen Court and adding sidewalks, during their meeting on Wednesday.

Construction is expected to cost $175,000, according to a report from the consulting firm Abonmarche.

Trustees approved hiring Abonmarche for $32,400 to design the project, which is expected to go out for bid in March and to be done by the end of June.

Paving includes Phillips Drive and Karen Court from Fairview Street around the loop of East and West Karen Court. Sidewalks will be added on the outside of the East and West Karen Court loop.

Winter wonderland

Trustees also talked about turning the village into a winter wonderland for the holiday season for people to drive through.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Christmas in the Village event was canceled, which is normally held the first Saturday in December.

However, the village is hosting a Christmas decorating contest that businesses and homes can enter.

More information on how to enter and how to vote can be found on the Village of Stevensville Facebook page.

Anyone wanting to donate towards the gift baskets for the winners can send an email to clerk@villageofstevensville.us.

People viewing the outdoor decorations are reminded to visit Santa at the corner of St. Joseph Avenue and Kimmel Street and leave him a letter in his mailbox.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Don Campbell / HP staff

Stevensville officials have approved a $175,000 project to pave and add sidewalks to Phillips Drive and Karen Court from Fairview Street and around the loop of East, pictured, and West Karen Court.

IN BRIEF

Cass, Van Buren record COVID-19 deaths Thursday

Cass and Van Buren counties both recorded several COVID-19 deaths Thursday.

Cass County added three deaths, bringing the county's death toll to 34. Van Buren added two, bringing its death toll to 56.

In addition, Cass County added 52 new cases Thursday, while Van Buren County added 56.

COVID-19 recoveries in Berrien County surpassed new cases of the virus for the third time this week, on Thursday.

Berrien County recorded 83 new COVID-19 cases and 110 new recoveries. The county is still at 122 deaths total.

With deaths and recoveries, the county is down to about 3,911 active cases. That's compared to 3,939 on Wednesday and 3,765 last Thursday.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland have stayed steady, with 66 patients admitted on Thursday morning. That's up from 60 on Wednesday and 58 last Thursday, but keeping with a steady trend.

Unity Service set for today

ST. JOSEPH — The monthly Unity Service will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Lake Michigan Christian Church, 9955 Church St., Bridgman.

Dr. Sherry O'Donnell organized the first Unity Service in July and has put together a service for the last Friday of every month since then. She said Friday's service will be a special Christmas edition.

The services feature speakers and worship teams from several local churches, with the goal being "to focus on God, family, community, and neighborly love," O'Donnell said.

Attendees will be asked to answer health questionnaires, temperatures will be taken, and masks are required to enter.

Senate: Let drivers renew license in person less frequently

LANSING (AP) — Michigan drivers could renew their licenses more frequently online or by mail instead of having to go to a secretary of state branch office under bipartisan legislation that received unanimous Senate approval on Thursday.

Residents now can renew their driver's license or state ID card by mail or the internet once, for a four-year term, but must go in person every eight years to get a new photograph. The bills, sent to the House in the closing days of a two-year session, would allow for an in-person renewal once every 12 years.

hp ENTERTAINMENT

Photo provided / Prasenjeet Yadav

A fan-throated lizard displays its colorful dewlap sac in this photo by Prasenjeet Yadav, one of the speakers for "Scientific Exposure" on Feb. 9.

Mendel Center becomes Nat Geo Live event venue

Schedule begins with virtual event series

BENTON HARBOR — The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College has recently become an official National Geographic Live venue.

The National Geographic Live speaker series delivers behind-the-scenes stories, imagery and footage from world-renowned photographers, scientists, authors, filmmakers, conservationists and adventurers, according to a news release.

"As an official National Geographic Live venue, we are excited to bring adventure to southwestern Michigan," Mike Nadolski, executive director of The Mendel Center, said in the release. "The quality of their speakers is unparalleled. The visuals are beyond incredible. And the content is highly educational for audiences of all ages."

While speakers are normally brought to venues in person, live virtual events will be offered in early 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mendel Center is presenting a trio of these presentations beginning in January:

'Life on Other Worlds'

Jan. 19, 7 p.m.

How close are we to discovering life on other planets? NASA's Perseverance rover is due to land on Mars in 2021 to search for signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth.

Jupiter's moon Europa is home to a vast subsurface ocean – a body of water that could sustain primitive forms of life nearly 600 million miles from our planet.

Join planetary scientist and astrobiologist Kevin Peter Hand and NASA engineer Kobie Boykins for the latest intriguing updates on this vast frontier of exploration.

'Scientific Exposure'

Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

Natural history photographers working with National Geographic have often emerged from scientific backgrounds, enabling them to reveal wildlife and our natural world in surprising ways.

Molecular biologist-turned-photographer Prasenjeet Yadav combines his experience in research with his photography skills to highlight natural history and science stories in Asia, and Anand Varma has developed innovative techniques to create stunning images of creatures whose details are otherwise invisible to the naked eye.

Join these National Geographic explorers and photographers for stories and conversation on the intriguing intersection of science and photography.

'Feats of Filmmaking'

March 16, 7 p.m.

Meet two filmmakers renowned for capturing extreme feats of adventure in some of the world's most remote and inhospitable environments.

British Columbia-based Bryan Smith brings stories of adventure to the screen from the South Pacific's deepest canyons to the frozen waters of Niagara Falls.

Keith Ladzinski takes on the seemingly impossible – including chasing tornadoes, hanging from natural arches, and swimming with alligators – to document the endeavors of the world's most elite adventurers.

A flexible price range of $15 to $25 per event allows participants to support the series as they are able.

Online passes are available for purchase at www.themendelcenter.com or by calling the box office at 927-8700, option 1, between 2 and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. At this time, there are no walk-in box office hours.

'Winter Delights' slated for Feb. 13

BENTON HARBOR — The Mendel Center's "Winter Delights: Bringing Valentine's Home" has been set for Feb. 13. The virtual event will include wine, chocolates, cooking and music.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with an optional interactive cooking demonstration led by Chef Luis Amado.

The first of five guided wine tastings with Lake Michigan College Director of Wine and Viticulture Michael Moyer will begin at 7 p.m.

Between tastings, there will be a virtual guided tour of the LMC Welch Center for Wine & Viticulture, gourmet chocolate samplings, and live music by Alex Holycross and Erin Zindle.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate that public gatherings will continue to be restricted in February. We see this reimagined 'Winter Delights' as another way to be creative with our capabilities and partnerships to provide a uniquely entertaining experience," Mendel Center Executive Director Mike Nadolski said in a news release.

If participants have other plans, or wish to only be part of the tastings, they can join at 7 p.m.

During the week of Feb. 8, wines, chocolate and recipes can be picked up at the Welch Center, or they can be shipped for an additional fee.

Photo provided

Alex & Erin will provide the musical entertainment for "Winter Delights: Bringing Valentine's Home."

More information

Moyer has 20 years of commercial winemaking experience and holds a master's degree in viticulture and enology from the University of California, Davis.

He came to Michigan from Figgins Family Wine Estates in Walla Walla, Wash. Prior to that, he worked as instructor of wine science and winemaker for College Cellars of Walla Walla.

His early industry experience was gained in Amador, Napa and Sonoma counties, as well as the Willamette Valley.

A native of Guadalajara, Mexico, Amado began his career at 14 as a pastry cook.

He moved to the U.S. to study culinary arts. He then traveled to Europe and worked in Spain and Belgium to develop his knowledge of classical European pastry.

He was the program director for The Culinary Institute of Michigan at Muskegon for 22 years. He's been the Culinary Management Program chair at LMC since 2016.

During the summer, he travels internationally to teach workshops and masterclasses to other professional chefs in Europe and Latin America.

Holycross (The Native Howl) and Zindle (Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds) have joined forces, from vastly different musical backgrounds, to perform as a new duo, Alex & Erin.

Their sound, dubbed "Outlaw Americana," combines Holycross' bluegrass/metal style with Zindle's songwriter/world music influences.

Their guitar/fiddle-driven performances showcase a new take on storytelling by drawing lyrical parallels between folklore and the current state of the world.

Tickets

Registration is $25 per person (age 21 or older), and can be done online at www.themendelcenter.com or by calling the box office at 927-8700, option 1.

Each $25 package includes:

- Five, 50 mL wine samples from Lake Michigan Vintners (Hard Cider, Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon and Red Hawk Red)
- Gourmet chocolate sampler
- Special Valentine's Day weekend entrée and dessert recipes
- Virtual tour of the Welch Center
- Live music by Alex & Erin

THE GUIDE

Editor's Note: In these uncertain times, events can change quickly. Be sure to check with each venue for updates and possible cancellations.

TODAY

Ed Skjordal: 6-9 p.m., Vineyard 2121 Winery & Tasting Room, 4110 Red Arrow Highway, Benton Harbor; free; 849-0109 or www.vineyard2121.com

The Crawpuppies: 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

SATURDAY

Dan Reisen: 3 p.m., **HiFi:** 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

The Mendel Center Broadway Talkback Series presents "Kinky Boots": 4:50 p.m. (watch party), 7 p.m. (talkback session with choreographer Jerry Mitchell); via Zoom; $10 suggested donation or $25 for 3-month Broadway-HD subscription; 927-8700 or www.themendelcenter.com

Christmas at The Acorn with Bryan Lubeck and Ted Yoder: 8 p.m., livestreamed via The Acorn Theater's Facebook page; free; 756-3879 or www.acornlive.org, www.facebook.com/AcornTheater

Langdon Kennedy: 8-11 p.m., Dockside Dan's Bar & Grill, 94376 CR 690, Sister Lakes; 424-5434 or www.docksidedans.com

SUNDAY

The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center Winter Concert Series presents "Beethoven's 250th Anniversary" (student recital): 2 p.m., **"A Cozy, Wintry Concert" with Lily Arbisser Shorr and Noah Palmer:** 5 p.m., online; free; 983-1191 or www.theheritagemcc.org

Harbor Country Singers Christmas singalong: 3 p.m., Sawyer Highlands Church, 13100 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer; 6 p.m., Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo; free, but limited space; 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic.com/hcs

Children's Music Workshop hosts Virtual Visits with Santa: 4-6 p.m., online via Zoom; free, but donations accepted; limited space, registration required; www.facebook.com/events/215546099953063

Jim Cooper: 4-6 p.m., Harbor Light Brewery, 516 Phoenix St., South Haven; 299-7760 or www.harborlightbrewing.com

Jason Murphy: 5 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

TUESDAY

Author talk with Karen Dionne: 6 p.m., via Zoom; free; 465-3663 or bridgmanlibrary.com, bit.ly/3qKPiiE

THURSDAY

Storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus: 1 p.m., online via North Berrien Historical Museum's Facebook page; 468-3330 or northberrienhistory.org, www.facebook.com/NorthBerrienHistory

The Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Speakers Series presents "Mental Health 'Pandemic' – The Crisis Within the Crisis": 7 p.m., online; free (1 device per ticket); 927-8700 or www.themendelcenter.com

Craig Turner: 7 p.m., Wegners Lakeside Bar & Grill, 2628 Lake Shore Drive, Niles; free; 683-1558 or wegners-lakeside-bar-grill.business.site

Trivia Night: 7-9 p.m., Sister Lakes Brewing Co., 92500 County Road 690, Dowagiac; 332-5135 or sisterlakesbrewing.com

DEC. 18

The Backsliders: 6-9 p.m., Vineyard 2121 Winery & Tasting Room, 4110 Red Arrow Highway, Benton Harbor; free; 849-0109 or www.vineyard2121.com

Chris Burch Trio: 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

The Acorn Theater presents Jeff Daniels: 8 p.m., online via Cloudcast; $15; 756-3879 or www.acornlive.org

DEC. 19

Children's Music Workshop hosts Virtual Visits with Santa: noon-2 p.m., online via Zoom; free, but donations accepted; limited space, registration required; www.facebook.com/events/215546099953063

Jason Paul: 3 p.m., **Gemini:** 7 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

The Citadel Spectacular: 6:30 p.m., online, livestreamed from The Citadel Dance & Music Center; $15 suggested donation; 925-9440 or citadeldmc.org

DEC. 20

Twin City Players premieres "Bah, Humbug!": 2 p.m., online via TCP's Facebook page; free; 429-0400 or www.twincityplayers.org, www.facebook.com/twincityplayers

Robert Rolfe Feddersen: 2-5 p.m., Haymarket Taproom, 9301 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman; free; 266-5050 or www.haymarketbeer.com

Brook Farm String Band: 4 p.m., Harbor Light Brewery, 516 Phoenix St., South Haven; 299-7760 or www.harborlightbrewing.com

Rob Yocom: 5 p.m., Four Winds Casino Resort's Kankakee Grille, 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com

ONGOING

ART EXHIBITS

South Haven Center for the Arts' 35th Annual Mistletoe Market (virtual): through Dec. 23; 637-1041 or www.southhavenarts.org/virtual

2020 Members Show: through Jan. 16, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; free; 983-3688 or boxfactoryforthearts.org

"You Won't Part With Yours Either: Robert Perine and the Fender Guitar, 1957-1969": through Jan. 20; ARS Gallery/Arts & Culture Center, 147 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; free; 277-5090 or arsartsandculture.org

"Artists As Influencers: Pathways in Glass" and **"Shelter-in-Place"** (virtual and in-person by appointment): through Jan. 24, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph; free; 983-0271 or www.krasl.org

FILM

Virtual screenings: "Finding Yingying": price not yet announced; **"76 Days":** $12 for 7-day rental; **"Harry Chapin: When in Doubt, Do Something":** $4.99 for 14 days; **"Blindfire":** $7.99 for 5 days; **"Citizens of the World":** $10; **"Chuck Leavell: The Tree Man":** $12; **"Radium Girls":** $12 for 7 days; **"Martin Eden":** $12 for 5 days; **"The Keeper":** $12; **"Herb Alpert Is":** $12, Vickers Theatre; 756-3522 or vickerstheatre.com

ATTRACTIONS

Light Up the Bluff: all day, through Feb. 14, Lake Bluff Park, Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph; free; 985-1111 or www.stjoetoday.com

Submissions for The Guide must include day, time, location with address, admission cost and contact information. We reserve the right to edit for space and style. Email to focus@TheHP.com, or mail to Focus, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. For help, email Features Editor Andy Steinke at asteinke@TheHP.com.

hp SPORTS

Don Campbell / HP staff

Lakeshore's Nolan Thompson (54) celebrates Treyjen Keim's touchdown during the first half of the district final against St. Joseph on Nov. 14.

Lakeshore still waiting

Lancers unsure if and when they'll play for regional football title

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

Lakeshore football is still playing a frustrating waiting game.

The Lancers defeated St. Joseph 14-9 for a district championship on Nov. 14. Now, nearly a month later, they still don't know if and when they'll play again.

Lakeshore's regional title game at top-ranked DeWitt was originally scheduled for the following weekend, then postponed to Dec. 15 due to a state-ordered pause on activities to control the spread of COVID-19.

That hiatus was originally scheduled to end on Wednesday, allowing teams to resume practice. On Monday, it was extended through Dec. 20. The MHSAA Representative Council met on Wednesday, but postponed any decision on the future of fall sports until next week.

Lakeshore coach Denny Dock called the delay "phenomenally disappointing."

"We're still very much in limbo," Dock said. "Supposedly we'll know next week, but we've said that before."

The MHSAA said earlier this week it still hopes to complete its fall tournaments, all of which would've wrapped up in December under its previous plan. But with practice now unable to start until Dec. 21 at the earliest, and three rounds of the football tournament remaining, it likely wouldn't be able to be completed until well into January.

That wouldn't be very convenient for Dock, who usually spends the winter in Florida before returning to coach the Lakeshore softball team in the spring.

"It's not just me," Dock said. "The kids, the parents, they all have plans."

Dock said Lakeshore has been able to conduct some workouts and meetings using Zoom. But with the possibility of in-person practice once again on hold, the pads were removed from the blocking sleds earlier this week.

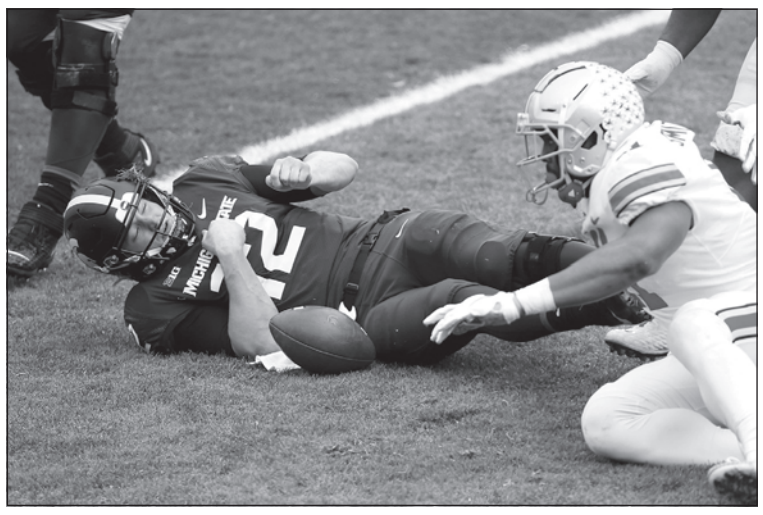
If the Lancers don't play again, they'll still be able to look back on a successful season which included a 7-2 record and a district championship. They'd just like to know whether they'll get a chance to keep going.

"Our guys were looking forward to practicing, to playing this game," Dock said. "And now they've put off a decision another week."

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com, 429-1294, Twitter: @HPBenSanders

Michigan State, Penn State close out tough regular seasons

By TRAVIS JOHNSON
Associated Press



Al Goldis / AP

Michigan State quarterback Rocky Lombardi, left, reacts after being sacked by Ohio State's Tyreke Smith, right, during the first half of Saturday's game.

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Sean Clifford is grateful that the faces he's been able to see and interact with in person have stayed close this season.

Penn State's quarterback realizes many of them, like himself, weren't used to losing and could've jumped ship, as others across the country have done by opting out due to COVID-19.

Instead, they've stayed on to right it. It's why Clifford feels good about where the Nittany Lions (2-5) are headed as they end the regular season against Michigan State (2-5) on Saturday.

"A lot of teams might've just said, 'You know what, it's whatever. We're going to move on to next year,'" Clifford said. "But this team has come in and worked every single day. It doesn't matter what's going on, what anybody is saying. We're just trying to take care of our business and I think it's going to pay off in the end."

Over their last two games, the Nittany Lions have developed a gritty running game and taken better care of the football on offense in back-to-back wins.

Meanwhile, a defense that allowed 30 or more points in every loss this season surrendered just 17 against Michigan and a single touchdown against Rutgers. The Nittany Lions smothered both teams, allowing just 112 yards passing to Michigan and 122 yards passing to the Scarlet Knights.

"Those guys fly around and they've got a good pressure package," Michigan State coach Mel Tucker said. "They seem to be able to play to the strength of their players, and they're able to mix some coverages and things like that and they seem to be growing and getting better."

Penn State's players insist it's because they've stuck together. Star linebacker Micah Parsons opted out before the season, but no other Nittany Lion has joined the more than 140 players across college football who've done so.

As a result, they believe they've done more than just salvage wins in the final weeks of a truncated season.

"This program has been through so much," offensive lineman Will Fries said. "(I) think that our class has realized that it's not just about us. It's about the guys before us, the guys that are coming after us, so it's on us to stick together, get the ship going in the right direction and continue to fight for this program."

Fighting for pride

The Spartans were knocked around by No. 3 Ohio State last week, and Tucker demanded his team get to work immediately watching film of the loss. Tucker was still notably irked by his team's performance in the 52-12 loss when he met with reporters on Wednesday, calling the effort "totally unacceptable."

It inspired some of the Spartans this week.

"Everybody definitely felt like they seemed to have a little fire ignited inside of them after this past game," defensive end Drew Beesley said. "I was very upset with the results because I know that we're capable of playing better and mistake-free."

Which QB?

Tucker said Rocky Lombardi "seemed to be doing better" after the starting quarterback was forced from last week's game with an apparent head injury. If he can't go, freshman Payton Thorne could get his first career start. Although Lombardi's started all six games, Thorne has seen the field when his teammate has struggled.

Thorne replaced an ineffective Lombardi against Iowa and Indiana earlier this season. His biggest workload came against the Buckeyes where he completed 16 of 25 passes for 147 yards with an interception.

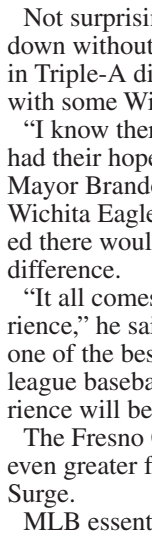
"The quarterback has to be the number one competitor on your team, period," Tucker said.

Either/or

Clifford, who briefly yielded Penn State's starting job to Will Levis, has been encouraged by Levis' playing time. Even though Clifford has reclaimed most of the reps, he'd still like to see his buddy get in the game.

MLB plays hardball – and deals blow to the heartland

Paul Newberry



Minor league baseball hasn't been able to take the field in more than a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

When it finally returns, it will look a whole lot leaner.

That's not an encouraging development for a sport that desperately needs to develop new fans at the grassroots level.

In a classic game of hardball, Major League Baseball essentially forced its will on the game's crucial developmental levels, eliminating highly sought affiliations with 43 franchises – about a quarter of its sprawling minor league system.

D-Day came Wednesday, with MLB teams extending invitations to a lucky group of 120 teams – four for each of the 30 big league franchises – while barely seeming to care about teams that were left in the dust.

The Tri-City ValleyCats, for instance, learned their disappointing fate from a chart posted on the Baseball America website.

Rick Murphy, president and part-owner of the Troy, New York-based franchise, had no idea why his team in the now-defunct New York-Penn League failed to make the cut.

"It's disappointing and surprising at the same time," Murphy told the Times Union. "I think operationally, we did everything you could expect. We hit all the metrics."

The ValleyCats were a short-season affiliate of the Houston Astros for 18 seasons, winning three league championships and drawing more than 4,000 fans per game for 11 straight seasons from 2008-18.

In their most recent season, Tri-City had the third-highest attendance in the 14-team league, averaging more than 3,869. The only two teams that were higher, Brooklyn and Hudson Valley, both survived with moves to a new league.

"You look at the facility, the attendance, you look at the fan base, you look at the geography," Murphy said, pointing to a metropolitan area of more than 1.1 million residents that includes the nearby cities of Albany and Schenectady. "You look at the market size and what we've been able to do for the last 18 years, and you would think it would have put us in a good position to be part of the 120."

Tri-City wasn't the only team that had cause to gripe.

The Lexington Legends, long one of the better-drawing clubs in the Class A South Atlantic League, were cast aside in the contraction.

Ditto for the Kane County Cougars, a Class A Midwest League team based in the Chicago suburbs for nearly three decades. Despite ranking in the top three in attendance every year but one over their long history, the Cougars didn't get the call from the big leagues.

Now, they'll have to carry on as an independent franchise in one of the "affiliated leagues" that MLB is partnering with to supposedly help find landing spots for at least some of the spurned teams.

The American Association or the Frontier League seem the most likely destination for a relaunch that the team's owners bravely called "Kane County Cougars 2.0."

"At this point, we're not sure where we're going to end up," Curtis Haug, the Cougars' vice president and general manager, told the Chicago Tribune. "The baseball landscape has changed quite a bit."

Even some of the teams that survived the purge got the short end of the bat.

Take the Wichita Wind Surge, a team that has yet to play its first game. Formerly the New Orleans Baby Cakes of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League, the team was lured to Kansas by the promise of a $75 million, 10,025-seat stadium.

Well, the stadium was built, but the team couldn't play in 2020 because MLB shut down the minor leagues in the midst of the pandemic.

Now, while still waiting to take the field in their new home, they have been demoted to the Double-A Texas League as part of a reorganization that MLB also imposed to enhance regionalization between big league clubs and their affiliates.

Not surprisingly, getting sent down without ever playing a game in Triple-A did not go over well with some Wichita fans.

"I know there are people who had their hopes set on Triple-A," Mayor Brandon Whipple told The Wichita Eagle, though he insisted there wouldn't be much of a difference.

"It all comes down to fan experience," he said. "And we have one of the best stadiums in minor league baseball and our fan experience will be second to none."

The Fresno Grizzlies took an even greater fall than the Wind Surge.

MLB essentially gave the team an ultimatum: Agree to shift from the Triple-A PCL to the California League – which will be at the lowest level of the new four-class alignment – or be dumped from affiliated baseball altogether.

With few other options, the city signed off on a deal late Thursday to allow the Grizzlies to drop down. The bitterness over the forced move will likely linger for years to come and surely have a major impact on fan support.

It will also be a big blow to Fresno's finances. The city still owes some $32 million in debt on its downtown stadium, 10,650-seat Chukchansi Park.

"We inherited this beautiful stadium," Mayor Lee Brand told The Fresno Bee. "It's an amenity we have that we don't want sitting vacant."

There has been lofty talk from MLB about contraction actually being a step toward improving conditions at the minor league level, from stadium upgrades to less travel to improved pay.

But we all know this was mainly about improving the owners' bottom lines, which have taken a huge hit during the pandemic.

At the moment, they're surely pleased to have fewer minor league teams to support in the years to come.

They may come to regret the fans they left behind, as well.

Paul Newberry is a columnist for The Associated Press.

Eaton, Sox finalize $8M, 1-year deal

CHICAGO (AP) — Outfielder Adam Eaton and the Chicago White Sox have reunited, finalizing a one-year contract on Thursday that guarantees $8 million.

Eaton gets $7 million next season, and the White Sox have an $8.5 million option for 2022 with a $1 million buyout.

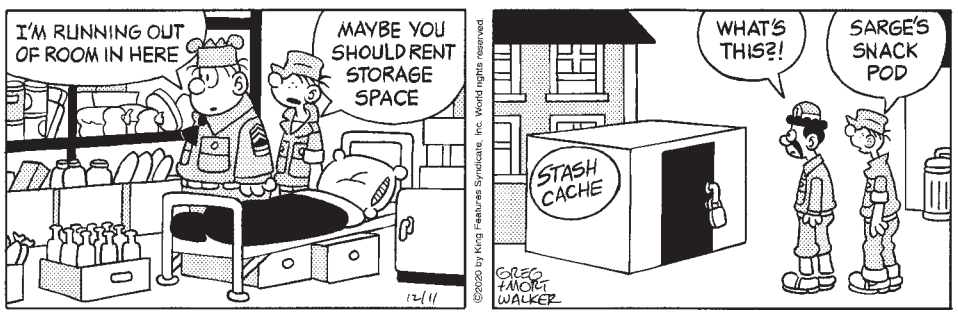
Eaton played for Chicago from 2014-16 and was dealt to the Washington Nationals at the December 2016 winter meetings for current ace Lucas Giolito, right-hander Dane Dunning and pitcher Reynaldo López. That trade was made one a day after the White Sox dealt former ace Chris Sale to Boston for infielder Yoán Moncada and pitcher Michael Kopech, launching a rebuild that helped vault Chicago to the playoffs last season.

Eaton helped the Nationals win the World Series in 2019.

Eaton replaces Nomar Mazara, who struggled last season after being acquired from Texas. Eaton figures to play alongside Gold Glove center fielder Luis Robert, with slugger Eloy Jiménez in left and Adam Engel likely the fourth outfielder.

Eaton would get $100,000 for winning the MVP award, $90,000 for second, $80,000 third, $70,000 for fourth and $60,000 for fifth. He would earn $100,000 for World Series MVP, $75,000 for League Championship Series MVP, $25,000 for Gold Glove, $15,000 for Silver Slugger, $25.000 for All-Star election, $15,000 for All-Star selection and $50,000 for making The Sports News all-star team.

BEETLE BAILEY



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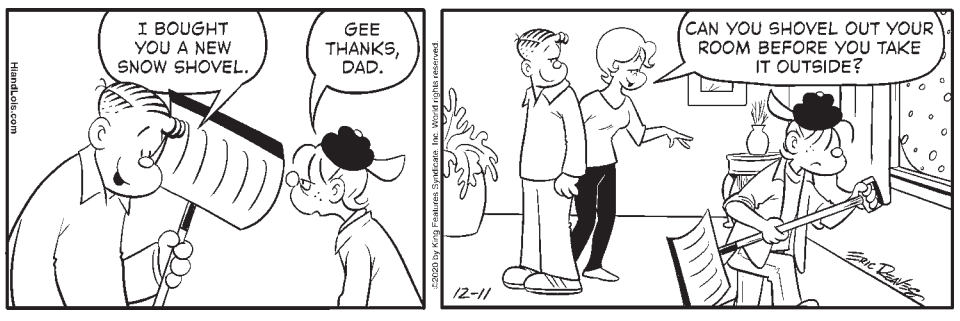

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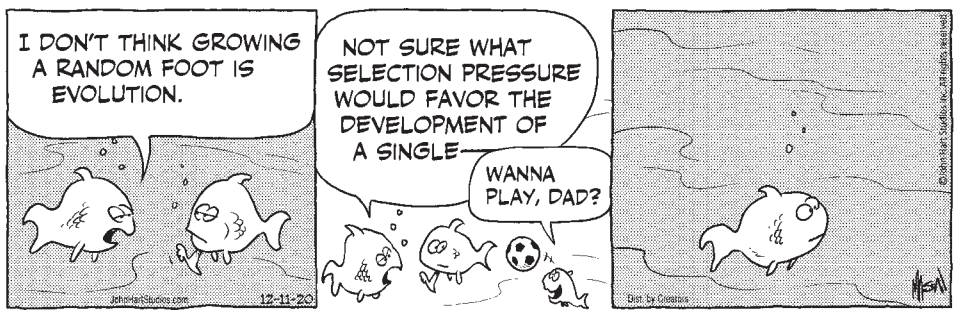
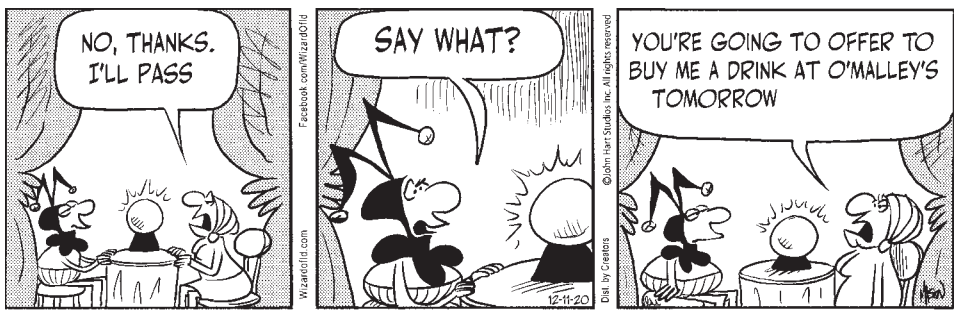
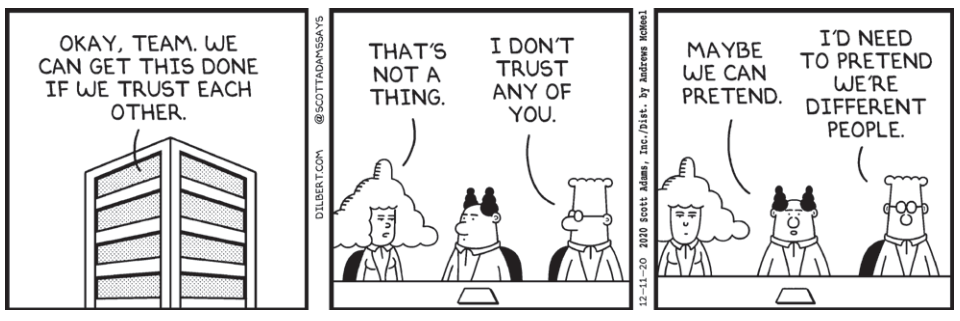


WIZARD OF ID

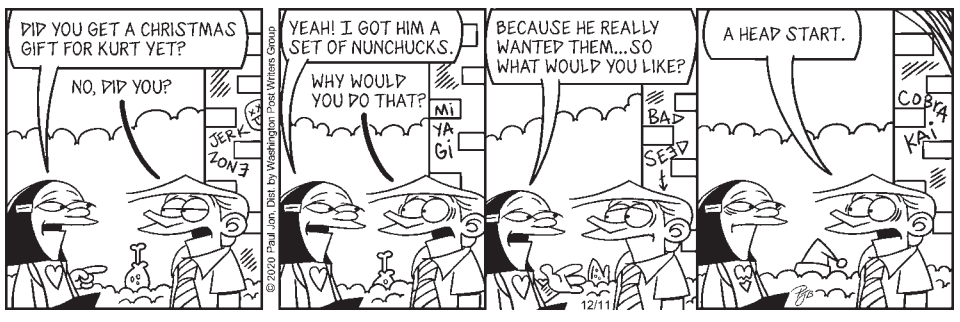


DILBERT



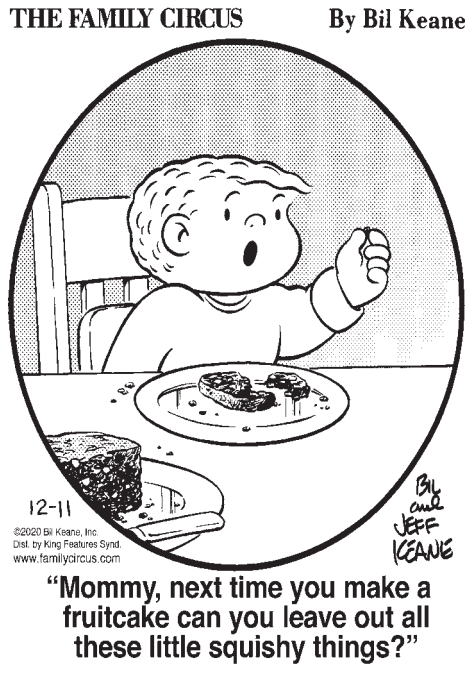
GARFIELD

FORT KNOX

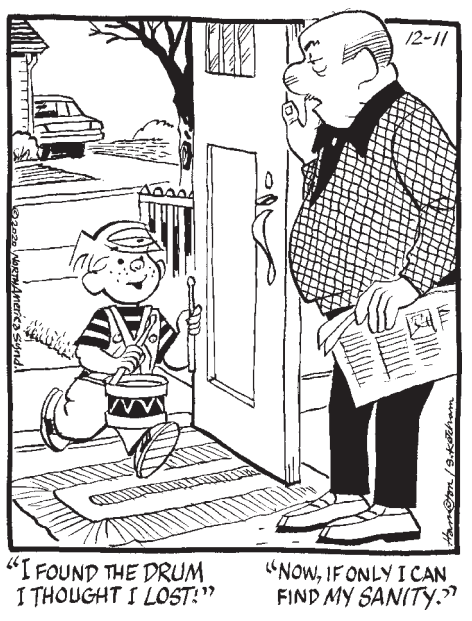


PICKLES

FAMILY CIRCUS

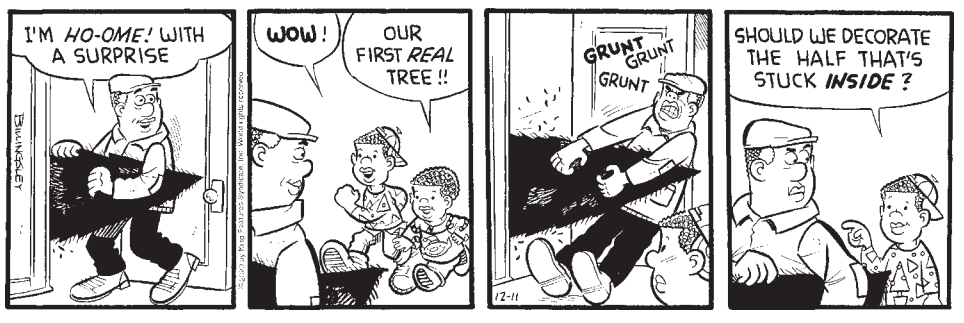


DENNIS THE MENACE



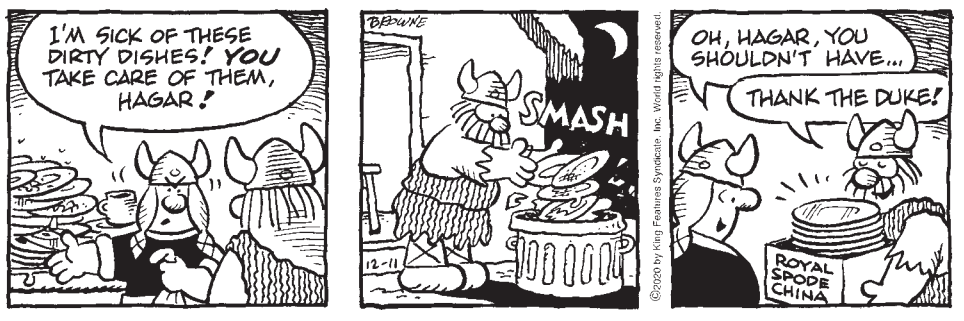
BABY BLUES

CURTIS



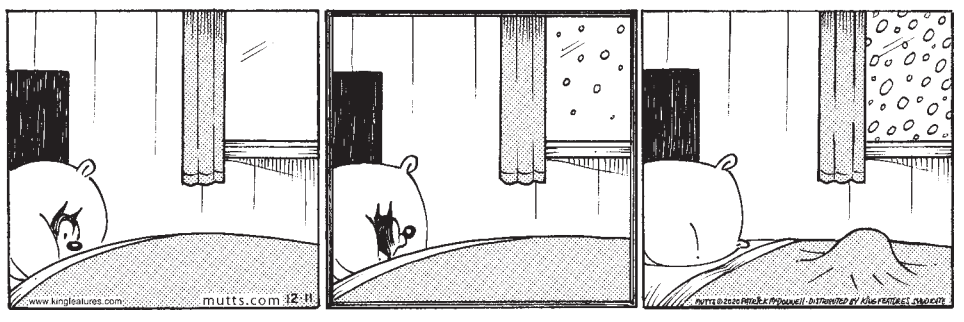
ZITS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

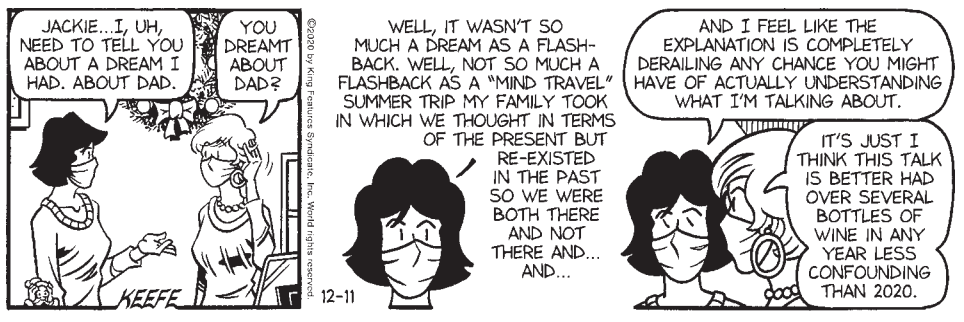


MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



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The Herald-Palladium

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PRIME TIME TV

FRIDAY EVENING DEC. 11

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank (N) CC (DVS)		:01 20/20 (N) CC			
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver (N) CC		Magnum P.I. "Easy Money" (N) CC		Blue Bloods "In the Name of the Father"	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Weakest Link CC (DVS)		Dateline NBC (N) CC			
FOX 17 22 28 32	Modern Family	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (N) (L)				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Black Journal	Washington Week	Firing-Hoover	Craft in America "Storytellers" CC		Craft in America "Democracy" (N)	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	The Christmas Caroler Challenge ((SP)) Meeting the 10 groups. (N) CC				News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Dateline A counselor is murdered. CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Legion"		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	The Christmas Caroler Challenge ((SP)) Meeting the 10 groups. (N) CC				King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "How to Say Goodbye"		Highway to Heaven "Highway to Heaven"		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48: My First Case (N) CC		Live Rescue "Live Rescue -- 12.11.20" (N) CC			
AMC	Santa					Snow Day ('00) Chris Elliott.	
Animal	Monsters	River Monsters		River Monsters: Deadliest Man-Eaters (N)			
BET	Married	Twas the Chaos Before Christmas				Tyler Perry's Sistas	
Big Ten	College Basketball			College Basketball Iowa State at Iowa. (N)			
Bravo	13 Going on 30 ('04) Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo, Judy Greer. CC				13 Going on 30 ('04) Jennifer Garner. CC		
Cartoon	Teen	Gumball	Gumball	Burgers	American	American	Rick
Cinemax	5:40 Her Smell	Pearl Harbor ('01, War) Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett. Best friends become fighter pilots and romantic rivals in 1941. CC					
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	S. Smith	Empires of New York		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Kid	Creek	Creek	Creek	Creek	Creek	Creek
Discovery	:00 Gold Rush	Gold Rush (N) CC					
Disney	Minions	Holiday	Just Roll	Special	Bizaard	Bizaard	Bizaard
DIY	Galveston	Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno	
E!	Saved/	Saved/	Saved/	Saved/	Saved/	Saved/	Saved/
ESPN	College Football Arizona State at Arizona. (N) (L)						Basket
ESPN2	College Basketball			NFL Live (N) CC		Max	UFC Live
ESPNC	6:00 NBA	College Football From Nov. 30, 1991.				College Football	
Food	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners, Drive		Diners	Diners
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	NBA Preseason Basketball				Lions	World Poker	
Freefrm	6:45 Home Alone ('90) Macaulay Culkin. CC			:15 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ('92) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. CC			
FX	Transylvania 3	Sing ('16, Children's) Voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon. CC					Life of Pets
Golf	:00 PGA Tour Golf QBE Shootout, First Round. CC						
Hallmark	Christmas-Darl	Five Star Christmas ('20) Bethany Joy Lenz, Victor Webster, Robert Wisden. CC				If I Only Had Christmas ('20) CC	
HBO	His Dark Materials	Hot Fuzz ('07) Simon Pegg. Grisly accidents rock a sleepy British village.				Euphoria Rue celebrates Christmas.	
History	Aliens	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens (N)		:03 Ancient Aliens	
HGTV	Dream	Holiday		Christmas		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Chantel	90 Day Fiancé				90 Day	Chantel
Lifetime	Radio Christmas	Inn Love by Christmas ('20, Romance) Jonna Walsh, Jesse Hutch. (P). CC				:05 The Santa Squad CC	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Football	NBA Preseason Basketball: Rockets at Bulls					Football
NFL	NFL Total	NFL GameDay View		NFL Fantasy Live		NFL GameDay View	
Nick	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NGEO	:00 Inside the Vietnam War CC					Brothers	
Oxygen	Dateline: Secrets	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered (N)		Homicide for the Holidays CC		Homicide for the Holidays CC	
Parmt	:00 Twilight ('08) Kristen Stewart. CC					Twilight: New Moon	
Showtime	:00 1917 ('19, War) George MacKay. CC			Your Honor "Part One"		Shameless "This Is Chicago" CC	
Starz	Beautiful Day	Jumanji: The Next Level ('19) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart. CC				:07 Power Book II: Ghost CC	
STZENC	6:45 Van Helsing ('04) Hugh Jackman. CC			Men in Black ('97, Action) Tommy Lee Jones. CC			3000 Miles
SyFy	6:30 Green Lantern ('11) Ryan Reynolds. CC			Ant-Man ('15, Action) Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas. CC (DVS)			
TBS	Seinfeld	Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas ('13, Comedy) Tyler Perry. (P). CC				The Wedding Ringer ('15)	
TCM	Pride and Prejudice	Marsha Hunt's Sweet Adversity ('14) Harry Belafonte, Norman Corwin.				Going Attractions: The Definitive	
TMC	6:15 Slither	The Waterboy ('98) Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates. CC			Major League ('89, Comedy) Tom Berenger. CC		
TNT	:00 Bones	27 Dresses ('08) Katherine Heigl. CC					Over
Travel	Paranorm.	The Osbournes Want to Believe (N) CC				Paranormal Ca.	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	:00 Chicago P.D.	It's a Wonderful Life ('46) James Stewart. An angel saves a distraught businessman from suicide. CC (DVS)					
VH1	Wedding	The Internship ('13) Vince Vaughn. CC					Step Brot
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Insulin is at the heart of both types of diabetes

DEAR DOCTORS: We keep hearing about Type 2 diabetes, and I'm embarrassed to say, I don't actually know what it is. What does it do, and how do I know if I have it?

DEAR READER: To understand diabetes, we should first talk about glucose. That's the sugar our bodies make from the foods that we eat, and which our cells use as their main source of fuel. Glucose travels throughout the body via the blood, which is why it's also often referred to as blood sugar. However, it's not immediately available to the cells. That's where insulin, a hormone manufactured by the pancreas, comes into play. Insulin helps transport glucose from the blood into the cells, where it can be used as energy.

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

When someone has diabetes, it means that the insulin part of that energy equation isn't working properly. Either the body isn't manufacturing enough – or any – insulin, or it isn't responding properly to the insulin that is present. That leads to blood-glucose levels that are too high.

Over time, high blood levels of glucose are dangerous. Adverse health effects include damage to the circulatory system, vision problems, nerve damage, stomach or intestinal problems, slow healing, kidney disease and an increase in the risk of heart disease and stroke. Extremely high blood sugar levels can lead to coma, and even death.

In Type 1 diabetes, the pancreas makes little or no insulin. It often develops early in life, but can occur at any age. This type of diabetes is managed with diet and exercise, plus the use of medications and insulin.

Type 2 diabetes, once referred to as adult-onset diabetes, often develops later in life. It occurs when the body doesn't make or use insulin well. Type 2 diabetes often begins as insulin resistance, which is a condition in which the body stops responding properly to the insulin in the blood. This leads to a loss of the ability to control blood sugar.

Some people can manage Type 2 diabetes with diet and exercise alone. Others may also need medication or insulin to keep their blood sugar in control. Medication needs often change over time, so it's important for everyone with diabetes to have medical care.

Symptoms of Type 2 diabetes often develop gradually. They include persistent fatigue, increased thirst and urination, blurry vision, frequent infections, slow healing and unintended weight loss. Risk factors for developing the disease include being overweight, storing excess fat mainly in the abdominal region, a family history of diabetes, inactivity and being over the age of 45. These last two factors are associated with a drop in lean muscle mass, which some researchers think may play a role.

Type 2 diabetes used to be seen most often in middle-aged adults. Unfortunately, in recent years it has increasingly been seen in young adults, adolescents and even children. If you suspect you have developed the disease, it's important to see your doctor. Diagnosis is usually via a blood test. Treatment includes weight loss, changes to diet, exercise, blood sugar monitoring and, possibly, the use of medications or insulin.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Son can't stand parent's racist friends

DEAR CAROLYN: I have a decades-long friendship with a guy from college. Our families are very close and vacation together each summer near his home.

He is a fun person but also an ill-informed, foolish, Archie Bunker type sometimes. My college-age son no longer wants to see him and his kids based on their politics. My son said he cannot be friends with people who support racism, etc.

Carolyn Hax

I completely get it and am sympathetic to my son's position. I know my friend takes his stand and influences his kids to do the same because there is a part of him that embraces an inner 1950s male self. That said, he is still a great guy and we have a long history of friendship. What do you suggest? – Dump My Dear Friend?

DEAR DUMP MY DEAR FRIEND?: Respond to their bigotry as if the people they demean are witnessing your response.

Your friendship will either survive that or it won't. Natural consequences.

DEAR CAROLYN: My mother-in-law apparently didn't come with a volume button. When we are in church, at a sporting event – pre-COVID – or generally out in public, she doesn't seem to notice how loudly she speaks. It's embarrassing.

Don't suggest hearing loss due to old age. She has been this way for the decades I've been married to her son. Plus if you say something quietly across the room that interests her, believe me, she will hear it.

The worst part is she has no filter, either. At a high school basketball game, for example, she will *very* loudly criticize a player, to the mortification of those sitting next to her. Please tell me how to handle this! – Chagrined

DEAR CHAGRINED: When someone next to you in the stands *very* loudly criticizes a player at a youth sporting event – as in, acts like a complete, under-socialized, overweening jerk – stand up without saying a word and move to another seat.

Live your message. Feel your blood pressure un-spike. And let both the community around you and your mother-in-law see that you refuse to be a party to this kind of behavior.

I wonder whether answering this means I can deduct the cost of 11 years of youth hockey as a business expense.

Kidding, kidding, don't @ me.

Church pews aren't as forgiving as bleachers, but you can do the same thing with a more gradual unroll: If your mother-in-law regularly says rude things at church, then choose to sit somewhere else starting ... whenever you can start going to church again safely. If she asks why, own it: "When you [whatever], I feel mortified."

This is for when the "whatever" is egregious and you can cite it specifically – such as, "When you mocked the acolyte's acne." For less-than-hateful remarks, where no moral stand is indicated, try, "I'm less distracted when I sit alone." Not untrue, just incomplete.

If she's merely loud in church, and her remarks are generally benign, then, beyond just not encouraging her, your burden sounds more perceived than real. She embarrasses only herself.

That doesn't make it any more fun to be around her, of course. But it does make her behavior suitable for reframing. Repeat to yourself silently, "I'm not being judged for this, she is – but I do get to play What-Will-She-Bellow-Next Bingo" (Ages 12 to Adult).

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Greek letter
5 Cotillion honoree
8 Leather punch
11 Grades
13 Orangutan
14 Colorful carp
15 Outlandish
16 More convenient
18 — Office
20 Thick
21 Glass squares
23 Computer key
24 Implore
25 AAA suggestions
27 Mr. Baldwin
31 That, to Juan
32 Dodge City marshal
33 Toy building block
34 James or Kett
36 Russian epic hero
38 — -Star Pictures
39 Enemies
40 Don Juan
41 Salon goop
42 Opposite of "post-"
44 Fire
46 Elvis tune
49 12 months
50 Sheet fabric
52 Put up cedar shakes
56 Collection of tales
57 Mountain pass
58 Pursue relentlessly
59 Chemist's workroom
60 Salt meas.
61 Wren's residence

DOWN
1 Certain sib
2 Paris thirst-quencher
3 Atlanta-based station
4 City near Canton
5 Arlene of old films
6 Pollution org.
7 Leans over
8 Related
9 Adversities
10 Trevi Fountain coins, once
12 Not lax
17 Colorful transfer
19 Dancer Fred —
21 Trattoria sauce
22 Striped stone
23 Adopt
24 Taco filling
26 Thus
28 Turn loose (2 wds.)
29 Snowy-white bird
30 Wind into loops
35 Tomato jelly
37 Go over again
43 Respond
45 Stellar hunter
46 Outback mineral
47 Ms. Horne
48 Dreary
49 Canine cry
51 Spanish article
53 Unpaid
54 Annapolis grad
55 Banned bug spray

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	L	A	P		O	L	L	A		H	A	D
H	E	I	R		H	E	A	R		U	S	E
U	N	D	O		A	G	O	G		L	P	N
M	O	A	N	E	R	S		Y	E	A	S	T
			O	W	E		I	L	K			
E	N	S	U	E		S	L	E	E	P	Y	
R	E	I	N		H	A	L			H	A	H
R	A	T			A	L	S		E	D	N	A
	P	U	L	P	I	T		P	E	S	K	Y
			B	R	R		J	A	R			
P	O	S	S	E		N	O	M	I	N	E	E
A	H	A		S	O	U	L		E	A	R	L
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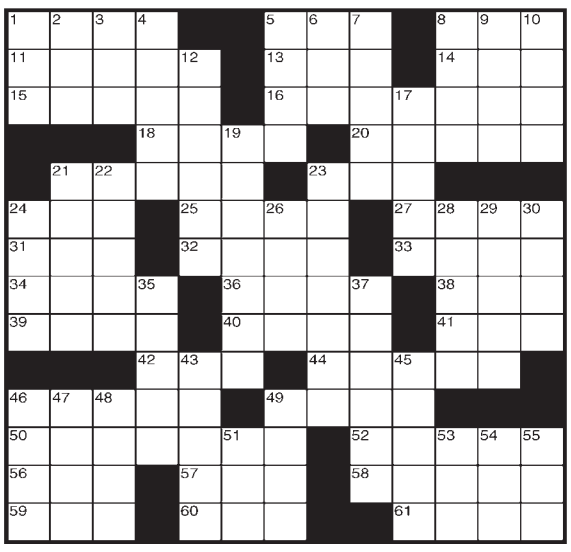
O	O	H		O	R	L	Y		T	A	T	A



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JUMBLE

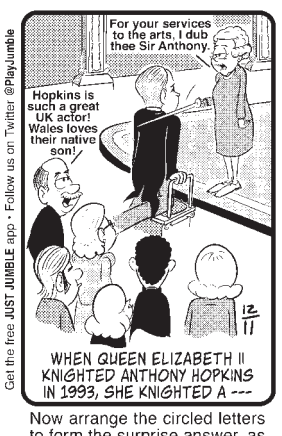
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CITYH

RYEDB

BRALER

NCTEEI



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"___-___-___"

(Answers tomorrow)

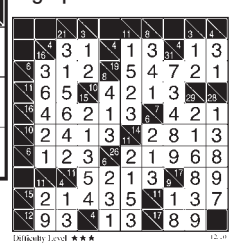
Yesterday's Jumbles: HARSH GECKO WILDLY APPEAR
Answer: The energy harnessed from the sun comes from a — HIGHER POWER

KAKURO

	10	13	17	18		7	38	35	17
28					16				
14					26 4				
3			22 38						
	17	20 35				18 34			
27					15 17				
9				24 24				11	7
37							4 11		
28					28				
24					10				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/11

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12-11

BRIDGE

There's supposedly nothing new under the sun. But bridge is rarely played outside. Also, it doesn't matter how often you play; occasionally, something will come up that you have not thought about before. In today's deal, for me, this was a new look at the trump-length theme.

Yesterday, I explained the support double. Opener bids one of a suit, responder bids one of a major, and the next player bids a suit below two of responder's. If the opener makes a support double, he shows three trumps in partner's suit and any hand strength. If he raises responder's suit, he guarantees four trumps, and the more he bids, the stronger his hand.

Here, though, North has made a negative double, showing four hearts. Why use a support double? Well, North might have five hearts if his hand is too weak for a two-heart response. So distinguishing between three and four trumps seems like a good idea to me.

Yes, all right, here I had only two hearts, so, over East's two-club cue-bid raise, I passed. West rebid two spades, and my partner jumped to four clubs. (Yes, she might have made a four-spade splinter bid if she were confident I would realize that she had good club support.) I raised to five clubs, ending the auction.

As you can see, six clubs have been made by taking the heart finesse and discarding South's diamond loser on the heart king. But at Bridge Base Online, with 16 tables in play, seven pairs played in five clubs, six in four clubs, one in three clubs, one in two clubs (don't ask!) and one in four spades by West.

North 12-11-20
♠ 8
♥ K J 5 4
♦ A J 2
♣ K 10 6 3 2

West
♠ A Q 10 9 6
♥ Q 10 9 7
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 8

East
♠ K J 4 2
♥ 8 3 2
♦ K Q 8 7 5
♣ 4

South
♠ 7 5 3
♥ A 6
♦ 10 4
♣ A Q J 9 7 5

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1♣ ??	1♠	Dbl.	2♣

Opening lead: ♠ A

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

		1		6	5	9		
	8		2	7			3	5
	6		8	9				
	2				8			
			1	5	6			
			9				1	
				2	9		8	
6	5			8	3		2	
		2	6	1		3		

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

8	2	9	6	3	7	1	4	5
3	6	4	1	5	2	7	8	9
1	5	7	8	9	4	3	2	6
5	1	8	2	6	9	4	3	7
9	3	6	4	7	8	5	1	2
4	7	2	5	1	3	6	9	8
2	4	5	3	8	6	9	7	1
6	9	3	7	2	1	8	5	4
7	8	1	9	4	5	2	6	3

The Herald-Palladium

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF FILING OF INTERAGENCY BANK MERGER APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Edgewater Bank, a Michigan-chartered bank headquartered at 321 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085, has filed an Interagency Bank Merger Act Application (the "Application") with the Chicago Regional Office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") seeking approval of the transfer of substantially all the assets and substantially all the liabilities (including all deposit liabilities) of Edgewater Bank to United Federal Credit Union, headquartered at 2819 South State Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085, which will be the survivor of the transaction.

It is contemplated that all offices of the above-named institutions will continue to be operated by United Federal Credit Union immediately following the proposed transaction, (with the exception of Edgewater Bank's branch located at 720 East Front Street, Suite B, Buchanan, MI 49107, which will be closed.

Any person wishing to comment on this Application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the FDIC at its Regional Office, 300 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60606, not later than December 28, 2020. The nonconfidential portions of the Application are on file at the Regional Office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the Application file will be made available upon request.

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF ST. JOSEPH Tree Trimming and Removal

Proposals will be received until 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 19, 2021 by the City of St. Joseph, at the City Clerk's Office; 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Proposals will be opened on January 19, 2021 at 3:15pm in the City Commission Chambers. If City Hall remains closed to the public at that time due to COVID-19 restrictions, bid opening may be attended remotely by means of electronic communications using ZOOM. Instructions for attending by ZOOM will be posted on the City's webpage at sjcity.com. Work includes: Trimming and or removal of multiple trees at multiple locations throughout the City of St. Joseph, including removal of all wood and debris associated with trimming and or removal of trees, stump grinding and site restoration. The work also includes the trimming of two (2) entire sections of the City. The specific sections of the City to be trimmed are contained in the bid documents. Specific details are provided in the Request for Proposal (RFP). RFP's can be downloaded from the City of St. Joseph website (www.sjcity.com) or one can be picked up from City Hall.
The City of St. Joseph reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formalities in bidding and/or to accept the bid or bids should it consider same to be in its best interest.
Denise Westfall
St. Joseph City Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGALS

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE

Grow your business!
Call Angelique
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Ex. 701,
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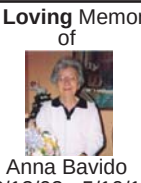
SPECIAL NOTICE

St. Joseph, MI
I am reaching out to the community for photos and videos of my daughter, Robinette Greening when she attended gymnastics between 1982-1987 at Southwest Michigan Gymnats. Robin passed away 3 yrs ago from cancer. Her daughter is now 6 and interested in gymnastics. Contact by email: ontherun2_00@yahoo.com

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of



Anna Bavido
12/13/03 - 5/10/10
We love & miss you
Florence Ross,
Anita Gaudio,
Bruce Crain and
Peter and Shirley
Del Vecchio

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION/ TEACHING

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River Valley
School District
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schools.org
Deadline: Until Filled

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
Keep an open mind this year, but don't be too eager to share information. Protect your rights, beliefs and reputation. Take nothing for granted. Be aggressive in your pursuits, but not when dealing with opposition. Distance yourself from negativity, and stay focused on what will bring you the highest return.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Refuse to let anyone interrupt what you are trying to accomplish or entice you with something that sounds exciting but risky. Control your emotions, and maintain honesty and integrity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be a good listener, and you will gain insight into what others want. A positive change at home will bring you closer to someone you love and set the stage for a brighter future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A dynamic approach to what you do will help you improve your skills, knowledge and ability to advance. Don't waste time on something you cannot change.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Personal improvement will make you feel good about what you have to offer. It's best to find out where you stand if you want to ease stress. Make a romantic gesture.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A lifestyle change will boost your morale and prompt you to pursue knowledge and skills that are engaging and will help you reach your long-term goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Spend time with people who share your interests and goals. Whether it's through a virtual connection or someone you share space with, the outcome will ease stress and encourage you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Information or help offered will not turn out well. Clarify what you need and want before you include others in your plans. Rely on your ability to get things done by yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try something new and exciting. A show of affection will encourage a positive change in a meaningful relationship. An unusual offer will be a steppingstone to advance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you let your emotions take over, you will find it challenging to deal with what others do or say. Take care of responsibilities, and move on to pleasurable pursuits.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A change you make will lead to personal growth. Tie up loose ends, and put the past behind you. Don't get into a dispute; just walk away. Romance is favored.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Verify information, and use your intelligence to deter someone from putting demands on you. Be bold and say what's on your mind. Align yourself with people who have something to offer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Take care of emotional matters, and it will help you get back on track. A change may not be welcome, but it will be necessary to fulfill an obligation.

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #
No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER ENVELOPE addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses
You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

Employment Advertisers Who Wish to Remain Anonymous
To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges
Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
$10. per box- you pick-up responses.
$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

Buy It. Sell It. Find It. CLASSIFIED.

Across U.S. and Europe, pandemic's grip on economies tightens

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The worsening of the viral pandemic across the United States and Europe is threatening their economies and intensifying pressure on governments and central banks on both continents to intervene aggressively.

In a worrisome sign of the harm the virus is inflicting in the U.S, the government said Thursday that the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits jumped last week to 853,000 – the most since September.

The surge in jobless claims made clear that many companies are still shedding workers as states reimpose business shutdowns and consumers avoid shopping, traveling or dining out.

Consumers thus far haven't spent as much this holiday shopping season as they have in previous years, according to credit and debit card data, and last month U.S. employers added jobs at the slowest pace since April. Restaurants, bars and retailers all cut jobs in November.

Responding to similar pressures, the European Central Bank announced Thursday that it will ramp up its bond-buying program to try to hold down longer-term interest rates to spur borrowing and spending. The ECB's action coincided with the highest single-day viral death toll in Germany, Europe's largest economy, and the shutdown of restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters and museums in France.

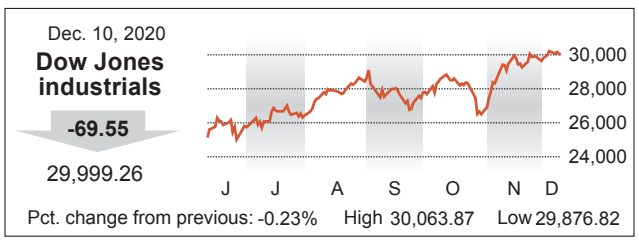
The coronavirus "is having an impact on consumers, it is having a big impact on the labor force, it is having an impact on businesses," said Gus Faucher, an economist at PNC Financial. "There are reasons to be concerned."

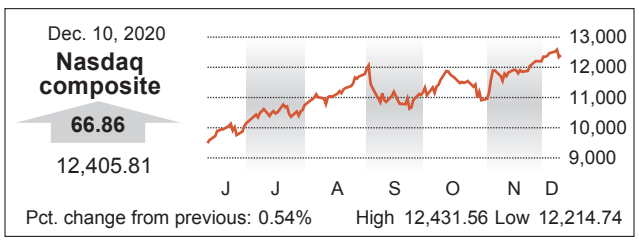
When the U.S. Federal Reserve meets next week, it may provide more detailed guidance on how long it will continue its own bond-buying program, which could reassure markets that its purchases won't end anytime soon. The Fed could announce other moves, such as shifting more of its purchases to longer-term bonds to try to further cut long-term borrowing rates and encourage spending. But most analysts think the Fed will keep that step in reserve.

Last week, the number of Americans who applied for jobless benefits jumped from 716,000 in the previous week. Before the coronavirus paralyzed the economy in March, weekly jobless claims typically numbered only about 225,000.

The surge in laid-off people seeking aid could raise pressure on Congress and the Trump administration to agree on another financial aid package to bolster the economy through what is sure to be a financially painful winter for millions.

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$82.48 **-1.12 -1.3%**
▼ **4-wk.** -8.0% ▼ **YTD** -12.7%

Whirlpool WHR
$182.41 **-2.63 -1.4%**
▼ **4-wk.** -.8% ▲ **YTD** +23.6%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.55	30.69	-.77	-2.4	▲	▲	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	82.48	-1.12	-1.3	▼	▼	▲
Apple Inc s	AAPL	53.15	137.98	123.24	+1.46	+1.2	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1274.41	1137.85	+1.18	+0.1	▼	▼	▼
BP PLC	BP	14.74	40.08	22.41	+.51	+2.3	▲	▲	▲
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	59.44	-.36	-0.6	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	53.05	-.28	-0.5	▼	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	52.49	50.48	-.78	-1.5	▼	▲	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	265.87	253.45	-1.38	-0.5	▬	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	157.46	154.69	+.26	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	114.32	108.29	-2.57	-2.3	▼	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	71.37	44.01	+1.21	+2.8	▲	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.64	27.78	+.05	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	53.42	40.13	-.20	-0.5	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	3.96	9.58	9.12	-.33	-3.5	▼	▲	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	11.32	-.07	-0.6	▲	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	140.63	292.95	264.81	-.77	-0.3	▲	▼	▼
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.48	15.38	-.07	-0.5	▲	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.63	13.03	+.12	+0.9	▼	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	199.50	191.87	-2.59	-1.3	▼	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	124.96	-1.83	-1.4	▼	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	120.27	-.78	-0.6	▼	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	152.25	-.85	-0.6	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	180.67	160.22	+.09	+0.1	▲	▲	▼
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	231.91	208.04	-.65	-0.3	▼	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	132.52	232.86	210.52	-1.28	-0.6	▼	▼	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	49.88	38.29	-.34	-0.9	▼	▲	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	48.76	+.28	+0.6	▼	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	43.08	41.73	-.12	-0.3	▲	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	146.92	135.51	-.90	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	103.79	93.49	-.83	-0.9	▼	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	23.02	13.35	-.23	-1.7	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	242.51	235.13	-.80	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	35.67	+.11	+0.3	▼	▲	▲
Target	TGT	90.17	181.17	172.40	-1.67	-1.0	▼	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	157.07	135.95	+.37	+0.3	▲	▲	▼
UPS B	UPS	82.00	178.01	164.24	-4.94	-2.9	▼	▲	▼
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.22	60.51	-.95	-1.5	▼	▼	▲
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	91.98	-.76	-0.8	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	102.00	153.66	147.04	-.69	-0.5	▼	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	33.36	59.78	41.65	-.12	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.91	22.18	-.33	-1.5	▬	▼	▼
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	207.30	182.41	-2.63	-1.4	▼	▼	▼
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	56.43	53.41	+.38	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	122.99	120.20	...	...	▲	▲	▲

OBITUARIES

George Bernard Walsh

George Bernard Walsh, 86, of St. Joseph passed away Dec. 8, 2020. His deep love for his friends and family, whom he always greeted with a joke, a bit of sarcasm and a big smile.

George was born in Glens Falls, N.Y., the only child of Mary and Bernard Walsh. After graduation from St. Mary's Catholic School in Glens Falls, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He was a proud veteran of the Korean War. Over the years, he kept in touch with many of his "war buddies," often attending military re-unions. He loved to share military stories with his family and friends.

On Nov. 15, 1975, George married Christania "Chris" – the love of his life. With this marriage, in addition to his three children, George was instantly the step-father to three children: Christania, Katrina, and Howard. George and Chris went on to have a son, George B. Walsh Jr.

Throughout his life, George was hard-working husband doing all that was necessary to care for his family. To his family, he was a caring and loving husband, father and grandfather.

In 2011, he and his wife (Christania Walsh) moved from Williamsburg, Va., to St. Joseph, to be closer to his stepdaughter Christania (Thomas Waggoner).

George is survived by his children: Diana (Mario), Martin "Marty" (Rose), Brenda, Christania (Thomas Waggoner), Katrina (David Koren), and Howard; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Bernard and Mary Walsh; his wife, Christania Walsh, who passed in May 2020; and his son, George B. Walsh Jr., who passed in May 2017.

George's life will be honored as he is laid to rest at Massachusetts National Cemetery with his wife and son at a later date.

Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Betty Elizabeth Haney

May 8, 1927 – Dec. 9, 2020

Betty Elizabeth Haney, 93, passed away Dec. 9, 2020, at Graceway at Countryside Assisted Living & Nursing Home, South Haven.

She was born to William and Flora (Wright) Starkey on May 8, 1927, in Greenville, Mich. At age 12 Betty was adopted by James and Nancy (Burrell) Lynch of Bangor, Mich.

On July 16, 1949, Betty was united in marriage with Marshall E. Haney at Simpson United Methodist Church, Bangor. They spent many happy evenings dancing with local square-dancing groups and were also members of the Oddfellows Hall. During their marriage, Betty alternately was a homemaker and worked at Adams Electronics in Bangor. Marshall and Betty were long-time members of Bangor Free Methodist Church.

After Marshall's death in 1980, Betty moved from Bangor to Paw Paw and was employed for several years at McDonald's Restaurant. Betty enjoyed attending her children's and grandchildren's sporting events and helping out at their schools and fundraisers.

Betty is survived by four children: Marsha (Donald) Brown, of Paw Paw, Gary (Susan) Haney of Ishpeming, Mark (Cinda) Haney of Bangor, and Carole Haney of Bangor; grandchildren: Donald Brown III (Amanda) of Colorado Springs, Colo., Nichole (Tim) Schipper of Paw Paw, Christopher (Samantha) Brown of Kalamazoo, Gary (Renee) Haney of Hammonton, N.J., Jeffrey (Amy) Haney of Huber Heights, Ohio, Michael (Carrie) Haney of St. Joseph, Bruce (Dawn) Haney of Bangor, Korrie (Kristofer) Perkins of Lawton, Cheryl (Ryan) Moch of Sherwood, Ore.; great-grandchildren: Paige, Preston, Peyton and Parker Haney, Bryce and Braylen Haney, Bailey and Maggie Haney, Deamie Brown, and Katherine Brown Eastman, Gabrielle and Ethan Oh, Haydn Perkins, Tyler, and Morgan Brown, and Melody Moch.

Betty will be laid to rest next to her beloved Marshall on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, at Arlington Hill Cemetery, Bangor.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choosing. The family was assisted by the Bangor Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Cifford Edward Wolter

Dec. 21, 1954 – Dec. 6, 2020

Cifford Edward Wolter, 65, of Battle Creek, passed away Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, at Rose Arbor Hospice Center, Kalamazoo. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel in St. Joseph.

Clifford was born on Dec. 21, 1954, in St. Joseph to the late Marvin and Arlene (Duschek) Wolter. He was a 1974 graduate of St. Joseph High School.

Clifford is survived by a son, Clifford Edward Kunze; a brother, John Wolter of Fraser, Mich.; and a sister, Sally Wolter of Benton Harbor.

Clifford is preceded by his sister, Denise Dorsey.

John E. Loomis

June 1, 1950 – Dec. 9, 2020

John E. Loomis, 70, of Covert passed away Dec. 9, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

Cremation has taken place. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a celebration of John's life will be held at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to Al-Van Humane Society Adoption & Community Education Center, South Haven or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Those wishing to leave an online message of remembrance may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

John was born June 1, 1950, in Watervliet to Robert and Ellen (Schultz) Loomis.

He retired from UPS in 2007 after 36 years of service. John truly loved watching his grandchildren in all of their school and sporting events. In his free time he enjoyed going to the races, fishing and just being with his family.

John is survived by his wife, Vickie, whom he married May 13, 1988; children: John (Tina) Loomis of Bangor, Kylie (Jeremiah) White of Covert, Jennifer (Scott) Schreier of Coloma, Robert Loomis of Allegan, and Timothy Loomis of Hartford. Also surviving are two sisters: Barbara (Bruce) Turner of Lecanto, Fla., Lois Loomis of Grand Rapids; three brothers: Raymond (Glenna) Loomis of Coloma, Robert (Mary) Loomis of Coloma, Richard (Robin) Loomis of Hartford; sister and brother-in-law: Alfred (Susan) Button of Kismet, Kan.; and his six grandchildren: Mari, Jack, Jaidyn, Rachel, Ben and Zaya.

Death notices

Daryl Benjamin, 87, of Niles died Dec. 9, 2020, at Center for Hospice Care, Mishawaka. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Gayle E. Borst, 78, of Niles died Dec. 9, 2020. Palmer Funeral Homes, West Chapel, South Bend, 574-232-6565.

Betty Elizabeth Haney, 93, of South Haven died Dec. 9, 2020. Bangor Chapel, D.L. Miller Funeral Home, Bangor, 427-7551.

Beverly (Linn) Hollowell, 85, of Bridgman died Dec. 8, 2020, at Woodland Terrance, Bridgman. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Lois Marie Jones, 91, of St. Joseph died Dec. 5, 2020. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

John E. Loomis, 70, of Covert died Dec. 9, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Judy Ann Sims, 62, of Benton Harbor died Nov. 22, 2020, at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

George Bernard Walsh, 86, of St. Joseph died Dec. 8, 2020. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Clifford Edward Wolter, 65, of Battle Creek died Dec. 6, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Richard Weschgel

Oct. 21, 1957 – Dec. 8, 2020

Richard Weschgel, 63, of Watervliet passed away Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at his home in Watervliet.

He was born on Oct. 12, 1957, in Benton Harbor to Robert and Helen Weschgel.

The family will receive guests from 10:30 a.m. until time of celebration of life service at 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 14, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. Burial to follow at Northshore Memory Gardens, Coloma.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to The Salvation Army, www.salvationarmyusa.org. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.starksmenchinger.com.

Richard attended BHHS and graduated in 1976. He went to Lake Michigan College and studied journalism. Richard loved his music and piano and was a member of the Salvation Army Church in Benton Harbor. Later in life, he became disabled due to a traffic accident. Even after the accident he continued to spread God's word through service and music.

Richard is survived by his sister, Debbie (Herb) Kroening.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Robert and Helen Weschgel; and his brother, James Weschgel.

Harry Herman Gnodtke Sr.

Oct. 21, 1933 – Nov. 26, 2020

Harry Herman Gnodtke Sr., 87, of Benton Harbor passed away Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A memorial service will be held and announced at a later date. Burial will take place at New Troy Cemetery.

Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Harry was born Oct. 21, 1933, in Bridgman, the son of the late Herman and Eva (Zelmer) Gnodtke.

He married Leora Ashley. On Oct. 25, 2003, Harry married Betty (Blair) Baugher.

He was a graduate of New Troy High School, class of 1951. Harry played basketball and served as class officer. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy stationed at Great Lakes, and was in the Honor Guard at Washington, D.C.

Harry retired from Clark Equipment Company. He was an avid golfer and accomplished several holes in one. Harry played league golf for many winters in Florida and played league golf in Benton Harbor. Harry and Betty enjoyed polka dancing. He loved the outdoors and took pride in his garden and maintaining his landscaping. In the past he enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Benton Harbor Moose Lodge 1750 and the American Legion. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; son, Harry (Susan) Gnodtke Jr.; daughter, Mary (Greg) Dean; siblings: Norma (Richard Schmidt) Reitz, Marie (John) Warsko, and Herman (Denise) Gnodtke Jr.; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and stepchildren: Mike Baugher, Karen (Tom) Burkhardt, Donna Mangles, and Greg (Marci) Baugher.

Harry was preceded by his daughter, Tina Gnodtke; grandson, Michael Gnodtke; brother-in-law, Edward R. Reitz Sr.; and stepson, Keith Baugher.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman.

50 & over?

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

An Italian restaurant featuring a bar and banquet facilities has opened in Red Bud Square. Famiglia's Ristaurante has a full menu of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, pastas, sauces, pizza, dinners and desserts. The restaurant, which is managed by Debi Smith, Cheryl Flynn and Mike Shapiro, employs approximately 30 workers.

1985 – 35 years ago

Student representatives from Southwest Michigan high schools have been invited to dine with Vice President George Bush at a Dec. 18 luncheon in Holland. William Barrett, Coloma superintendent, said every high school, private and public, may send up to three representatives and one adult adviser to the luncheon at the Evergreen Community Senior Citizen Center. According to the letter sent to area superintendents, the vice president would like to meet with students as well as area senior citizens. Students and senior citizens will be treated to lunch and take part in a question-and-answer session after a brief speech by the vice president.

1970 – 50 years ago

The Benton Harbor Fire Department sponsored an art contest for children in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, and received about 1,000 entries. The drawings represent what children had learned after visiting fire stations and hearing talks on fire safety. The three winners were: Theresa Watts of Lake Michigan Catholic, Michael Sila of Lake Michigan Catholic, and first-place winner Leonard Seawood of Calvin Britain.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, Dec. 11, the 346th day of 2020. There are 20 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI.

On this date:

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1844, the first experimental use of an inhaled anesthetic in dentistry took place as Dr. Horace Wells of Hartford, Connecticut, under the influence of nitrous oxide, had a colleague extract one of his teeth.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1964, singer-songwriter Sam Cooke was shot to death by a motel manager in Los Angeles; he was 33.

In 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt aboard; they became the last two men to date to step onto the lunar surface.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

In 1998, majority Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee pushed through three articles of impeachment against President Clinton, over Democratic objections.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Scattered Rain	Rain Likely	Rain Likely	Rain & Snow Possible	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
46°	40°	47° / 33°	38° / 30°	36° / 29°	37° / 28°

Local Outlook

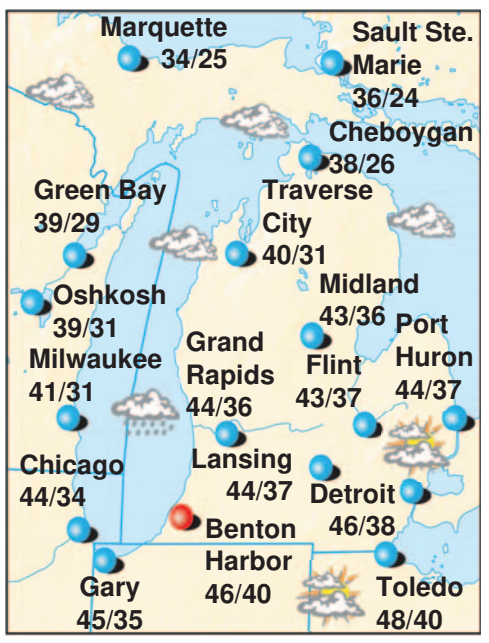
Today we will see cloudy skies with a 55% chance of scattered rain, high temperature of 46°, humidity of 70%. East northeast wind 2 to 9 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 95% chance of rain, overnight low of 40°. East northeast wind 9 to 14 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:04 a.m.
Sunset	5:13 p.m.
Moonrise	4:12 a.m.
Moonset	3:15 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
12/14	12/21	12/29	1/6

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	54°
Low	30°
Normal High	36°
Normal Low	23°
Record High	58° in 2015
Record Low	3° in 2009

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal for month	0.84"
Year to date	32.03"
Normal Year to date	36.17"

Air Quality

Yesterday 86

Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

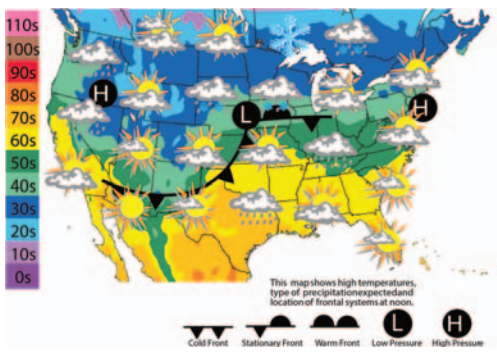
Weather Trivia

Does lightning strike more women or men?

Answer: Men get struck almost twice as many times as women.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 11, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, SSW wind 5 to 11 kt. Rain likely. Waves 1 ft or less. Water temperature 48 degrees. Tonight, ENE wind 12 to 16 kt, with gusts as high as 24 kt. Rain. Waves 1 to 2 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with highs in the 30s and 40s. East southeast wind 7 to 10 mph. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with widespread snow, highs in the 30s. Northeast wind 18 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated rain, highs in the 40s. East northeast wind 2 to 9 mph. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with widespread rain, highs in the 40s and 50s. East northeast wind 8 to 14 mph.

Don Campbell / HP staff

The New Super Buffet Restaurant in Benton Township has closed permanently in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHAOS

From page A1

away from the city as cases increase nationwide, and resourceful business owners who have adapted to the shifting market due to the pandemic, it is likely that around one-third of local small businesses continue to remain closed.

"Unfortunately, at this time it is unknown how many of these closures are permanent, although the number is likely increasing every week."

Job losses

Every sector has been affected by the ongoing pandemic, but the leisure and hospitality sector has been hit particularly hard in Southwest Michigan.

The combination of business shutdowns and broader declines in consumer demand due to the virus has resulted in significant layoffs this year at restaurants, hotels and movie theaters.

As of October, data showed there were about 5,500 payroll jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector in Berrien County, which was a decrease of 2,100 – about a 28 percent decline – from the same time a year ago.

To put these losses in context, total payroll employment in Berrien County was down an estimated 4,800 jobs in October from the same time last year, and the leisure and hospitality sector accounted for more than 40 percent of these job losses.

There were also significant job cuts in other private service-providing sectors, such as health care and retail, as primary care physicians, dentists, banks, hair salons and shop owners were forced to lay off staff or shut their doors.

However, none saw as much of an impact as leisure and hospitality.

"The public sector has seen significant job losses, both regionally and around the country, as states and municipalities have been forced to trim staff and cut employee pay to address budget shortfalls as a result of the pandemic," Gustafson said.

Job declines in this sector have been driven by layoffs in public education, which accounted for over one-third of all government employment in Berrien County prior to the pandemic.

Sagging postsecondary enrollment and the adoption of virtual instruction have resulted in local school districts and postsecondary institutions laying off support staff such as custodial and food service workers.

As of October 2020, there were 7,700 total payroll public sector jobs in Berrien County, a decrease of 1,000 – an 11.5 percent decline – from October 2019.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

LAWS

From page A1

for operating a vehicle without registration. Certain offenses surrounding operating a motor vehicle while impaired would no longer have mandatory sentences and in some instances allow for court-mandated drug and alcohol treatment programs instead of imprisonment.

Bills would eliminate mandatory minimum sentencing for parents who fail to comply with the state's compulsory school attendance and individuals who fraudulently fake certificates or college transcripts to become employed.

State Sen. Sylvia Santana, a Detroit Democrat who has sponsored bills that would limit pretrial incarcerations, said the legislative effort will have a meaningful change for the state.

"A lot of people because they can't make the bail, or they couldn't pay the ticket, they're sitting in a jail and not being able to take care or sustain their families during that time. So I'm really excited that this legislation is passing today," she said.

MEETINGS

From page A1

has been declared.

Most elected bodies have been holding online meetings since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elliott said the local emergency declaration can be for 90 days and can be cancelled if the state legislature takes action. The Michigan House canceled all voting sessions this week due to a staffer testing positive for COVID-19. It is unknown if the state House will meet for its final voting days next week before it adjourns for the year.

Preparing for vaccine

Meanwhile, Elliott said he's ready to declare a state of emergency at a moment's notice once the county starts receiving the vaccine doses for COVID-19. That is expected to happen soon after Pfizer, one of the companies making a vaccine, receives FDA approval.

Elliott said that he can declare a state of emergency with only his signature for seven days.

"Our local declaration can enable us to mobilize the emergency operations center to provide assistance in the distribution of the vaccine," he said after the meeting.

During the meeting, commissioners approved an agreement between the Berrien County Health Department and Lakeland Hospitals at Niles and St. Joseph for temporary storage of the Pfizer vaccine, which must be stored at 77 degrees below zero or colder to remain viable.

Commissioner Ezra Scott gave a report on his Tuesday visit to Washington, D.C., where he took part in the coronavirus summit with the members of Operation Warp Speed, the public-private partnership aimed at accelerating the development, manufacturing and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Berrien County is slated to receive 992 vaccines in its first shipment, which he said will be shipped within 24 hours of FDA approval. After that, he said the county is expected to receive weekly shipments of the vaccine, which requires two doses per person.

He said Army Gen. Gus Perna was put in charge of logistics for the vaccine distribution because the private companies involved in the distribution will have access to military satellites for GPS tracking.

"They say ... 24/7 they can see where that package is within three feet, so they know when it gets out," he said.

Scott said that by the end of February, about 20 million Americans are expected to be vaccinated. By mid-summer, Scott said the number of Americans vaccinated is expected to be more than 100 million.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege